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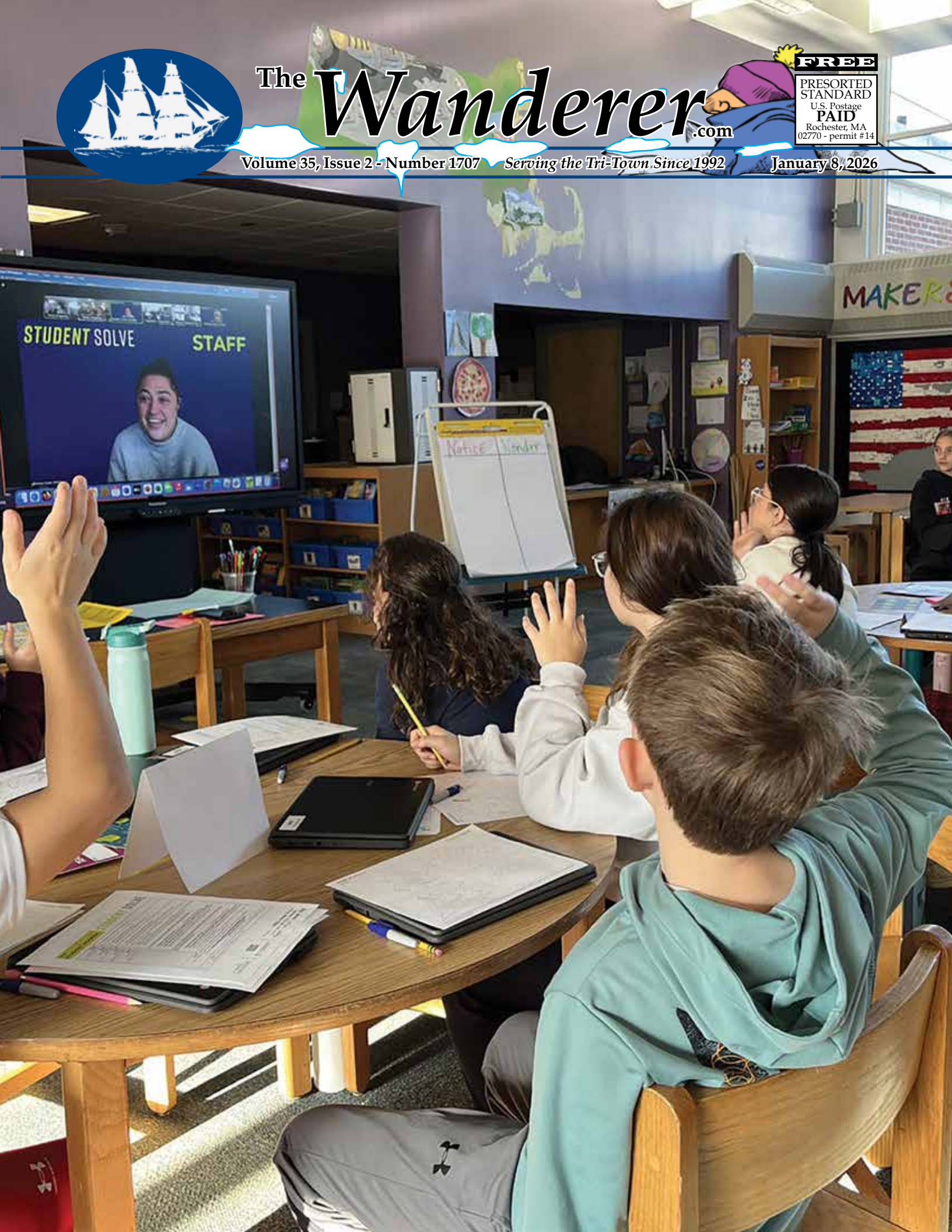
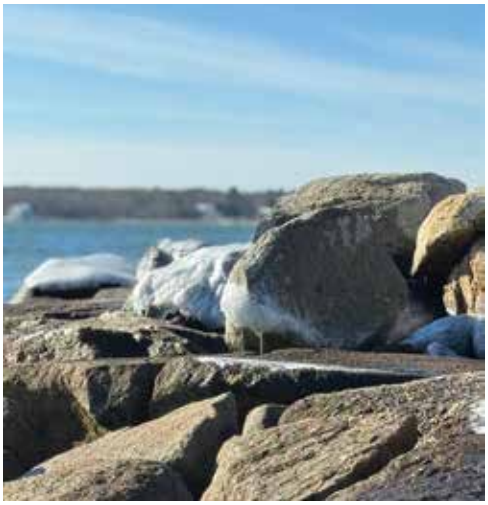


TriTown Happenings

The Village at Plumb Corner with the Mahjongg Gals. Photo by Judith Sullivan

Photo taken by Ruth A. Griffin on a cold winter day in Point Connett, Mattapoisett.



Ned's Point rocks and shells with icy coating. Photo by Jennifer Shepley

Mattapoisett Town Beach seagull soaring at sunset. Photo by Rob Grant

(Left) Swans in Mattapoisett Harbor. Photo by Mary Dermody

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RMS Students Tackle Citrus Decline

Student Solve Problem Project

By Sam Bishop

On December 12, select sixth-grade students at Rochester Memorial School participated in a project called the "Student Solve Program" championed by OpenSciEd, an organization Old Rochester Regional School District partnered with during Covid to increase science engagement.

OpenSciEd is a multi-state, non-profit the ORR School District partnered with a few years ago. They mainly provide science curriculum and supplemental material for K-12 students through funding from the Gates Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, and other streams since they began their initiative in 2017.

RMS sixth-grade science teacher Tracey Forns began training in the program about four years ago, along with other grades 6, 7 and 8 science teachers in the ORR district, with Grade 5 joining a few years ago, Forns explained. Working alongside OpenSciEd allows schools in the district to participate in many differing projects, while also being on the receiving end of outreach by other non-profits or corporations in science-related fields.

That brings us back to the Student Solve Program that 25 RMS sixth graders participated in last month. OpenSciEd received the active engagement of two companies, Flagship Pioneering, an investment company that focuses on breakthrough research companies, and Invaio, a group that works with farmers to develop sustainable solutions through the changing world.

Above and on the Cover: *Students at Rochester Memorial School last month participating in the Student Solve Problems project, a part of the OpenSciEd partnership with the ORR School District. Photo courtesy of Tracey Forns and RMS*

A problem was presented to students: "Flagship and Invaio are asking questions about the declining citrus production. Huanglongbing (HLB), or "citrus greening" is a serious bacterial disease that has no cure and can kill trees within a few years. Instead of producing fruit for 20-50+ years, infected trees only produce fruit for 10-15 years. Between 2009 and 2019, citrus greening caused about a 72% decline in the production of oranges. However, not all citrus trees are impacted in the same way. The Sugar Belle, a hybrid of the sweet clementine and Minneola tangelo, is tolerant to HLB and produces twice as much fruit as other infected trees."

Students were broken up into groups and tasked with hypothesizing why some citrus trees could be

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tolerant to HLB and why others are more susceptible. They were also encouraged to think of possible solutions or avenues for conservation of existing citrus productions. A representative of Invaio acted as a mentor to help guide students through their problem-solving. "They loved it. Our mentor was literally with us on the side computer the whole time," Forns explained. The students wrote out their ideas and presented them to their mentor via Zoom. The mentor would, in turn, offer the students feedback, discussion, and even consideration of their developments.

In identifying the greatest takeaway among the participants, Forns referred back to their discussions with the program mentor. "The biggest takeaway was one student looked right at me and said 'adults finally listened to me.'" In working on a real-world issue and hypothesizing potential real-world solutions, the students felt a level of involvement and fulfilment many had not yet received. Forns also mentioned the mentor told one group, "I'm going to take this back. I am going to use your idea." Thus proving, no one is incapable of creating solutions to the world's blights, whether it be towards citrus or otherwise, no matter how small. "They were things the kids came up with, that he said he had never even thought of," she said.

Going forward, Forns said, "We'll probably do it every year. I'm just going to open it up to more students next year." This year's project largely served as a trial run, as the maximum allowed students is 25 per teacher. The hope would be to get more teacher/staff involvement to facilitate the inclusion of more students.

Forns highlighted the importance of her role alongside students, saying she acts as a guide for students to develop their own through processes through the investigation. "This whole setup is so much better because it gets kids to actually think and problem solve rather than just memorize," she said, stressing the importance of teaching students ways of thinking and problem solving. "That's the coolest thing. Today in class, they used prior knowledge of something they had done in order to solve a problem today."

This year, the participating students were: Nora Murphy, Kate-Lynn Costa, Tsion Baker, Alice Rogers,

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Who will Care for Me at Home?

What Does The Doctor Say?

By Dr. Edward Hoffer

As birthrates fall and we live longer, western societies are aging. In the U.S., Canada and Britain, almost 20% of the population is over 65, while in Western Europe it ranges from 20 to 25%. Indeed, as baby boomers age, the fastest growing demographic is projected to be those 85+.

While today's seniors are healthier than the elderly were a generation ago, aging eventually leads to the loss of some ability to live independently.

If an elder can no longer safely take a shower or grocery shop by themselves, what are their options?

As the last resort, moving to a nursing home is an option but, when asked, most seniors strongly prefer to age in their own home.

Besides being unappealing, nursing home care is expensive! In Massachusetts, a high cost of living state, the median cost of a semi-private room in a nursing home is $12,600 per month. Nationally, the median cost is $9555, which translates to $114,660 per year.

Staying at home instead of a nursing home means that help in the home will be needed. This can be provided by some combination of friends, family and paid caregivers.

Long-term, the U.S. must make policy decisions about how to cope with its aging population. In the immediate future, we need to provide more, and more affordable, help at home.

In 2024, some 3.2 million people worked as home health aides and personal care aides. To meet the demand, experts say that another 750,000 will be needed over the next decade.

Who are these people caring for our frail elders? Not surprisingly, almost 90% are women. About 30% are foreign-born, many from low-income countries such as the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti and the Philippines.

Home health workers are poorly paid, averaging $17/hour, and there is very high turnover. At the same time, the cost to care-recipients is high, averaging $34/

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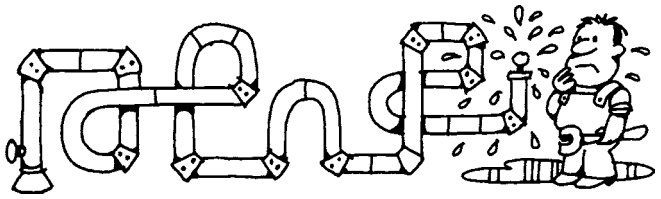

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hour. The difference is the money made by the agencies that employ the workers.

The agencies play a key role in vetting the home care workers. Given the possibility of physical abuse or theft by unknown individuals in the home of a dependent elder, hiring someone "off the street" is risky, yet keeping half of the cost seems excessive. If you or a loved one needs help at home, what are your options other than going through an agency?

The ideal option would be word of mouth. If a friend or neighbor has had a home aide that has been reliable, hiring them directly is an option. You can pay them more than they would get from an agency and still save money.

A better option would be for your state to set up a registry of vetted home health and personal care aides that individuals could access. The state could assume the responsibility for doing background checks and listing any complaints.

Massachusetts has such a registry, but it is only accessible to employers, not the public. Ask your state legislators to open the registry for public access.

The best fallback would be to call your local Visiting Nurse agency. They will either provide vetted home health aides or be able to direct you to a trusted local agency.

Edward Hoffer MD is Associate Professor of Medicine, part-time, at Harvard.

Thoughts on…

Looking For Good News While Looking Back

By Dick Morgado

Well, another year has whizzed by. It seems as though we were just anticipating Memorial Day, the official start of summer soon to be followed by the Fourth of July, fireworks, the road race, ice cream at the "Slip" (new owners next year), and a long hot summer. It all goes by so fast.

This year I resolve to write only good news. No Town Hall controversies. No local politics. Definitely nothing about those folks down in Washington pretending to govern. Especially nothing about the

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current tenant in the Peoples' House and his grand ballroom, triumphal arch or gold décor that he says we don't have to pay for. Nope, none of that. Only good news. Yup, just good news.

So, have you looked at your property tax bill yet? Wow! Oops, that resolution didn't last long.

I long for the days when our little village was just a rest stop on the way to the Cape. A simpler time when us "Townies" could take advantage of small-town corruption and rely on bribery to lesson our tax burden. You could "pay off" an Assessor, who was likely your neighbor, to make a slight adjustment to your tax bill, with a basket of tomatoes from your garden.

A friend of mine is an Assessor. His garden is a lot bigger than mine. Last year he gave me a nice bunch of kale. It was delicious. He can keep his kale next year!

Okay, enough of this kvetching. I am sure dear readers that you are tired from the holidays. All that shopping, wrapping, travel and visiting relatives must be stressful. Therefore, I feel obliged to update you on important information you may have missed during all of the end-of-year festivities.

Down in Florida where it is warm, a woman homeowner is facing over $165,000 in fines for parking her car on her own lawn. Apparently, the city of Lantana does not allow on-street parking, so since there are four family members living at her address, each with a car, she has been parking her car with two tires on her grass. She

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has been committing this dastardly deed of parking on an "unapproved surface/grass/walkway" since 2019.

The city also assessed her additional fines totaling $16,125 for "cracks in the sidewalk" and another $47,375 for failure to fix her fence in a timely fashion while she was waiting for an insurance claim. The fence was blown down in a "major storm". To add insult to injury, after numerous appeals, the Florida Supreme Court declined to hear her case.

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Closer to home, USA Today notes that a sleep scientist (who will remain nameless) at a hospital in Boston has suggested that sleeping in the nude can "reduce distractions from twisting or shifting fabrics" but can be "uncomfortable for some people." Ya think!

Moving on... A Swedish musician has trained an octopus to play piano. Mattias Krantz searched high and low for an animal to teach to play the piano. Krantz found one while browsing a seafood market. He named the mollusk Takoyaki, or Tako for short.

He built an underwater keyboard and began to place bits of crab on the appropriate keys. Before long Tako realized if he snapped up a bit of crab with one of his eight legs…well you get it. Sure enough, eventually, along with Krantz accompanying him on Guitar, he was able to play the tune "Baby Shark." You can't make this stuff up.

Speaking of intelligence, NBC reports that there is wide concern that spending too much time on X (formerly known as Twitter) and watching TikTok videos and Instagram Reels may be reshaping the brain. The condition is known as "brain rot." Research has suggested that these activities may cause "attention problems, memory disruption, and cognitive decline." Well, that may explain a lot of what is happening in Washington.

And finally, out in San Francisco a woman gave birth in the back seat of a self-driving "Waymo" taxi. The taxi company's computers, detecting "unusual activity" in the back seat, called to check on her and directed the cab to the nearest hospital. Mother and child arrived safely at the hospital. According to Waymo's spokesperson, the vehicle "has been removed from service for cleaning."

Now that's good news.

Mattapoisett resident Dick Morgado is an artist and happily retired writer. His newspaper columns appeared for many years in daily newspapers around Boston.

Green Thoughts for 2026

The Seaside Gardener

By Laura McLean

Snow is a good medium for the birth of a new year. All that whiteness blots out the past, and a virtual

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blank canvas awaits. We look for clarity and sharpness, and the possibilities that the new year may offer.

As with every new year, 2026 brings new priorities. Children grow up and out, careers expand and contract, and we continue to reinterpret ourselves. This ebb and flow of life has shaped the years leading up to the present. But one thing that to me remains constant outside the warmth of the home is the garden, frozen in temperature and time. But not for long. We comfort ourselves that spring will bring daffodils and the returning robins will be pulling worms from the ground. From then on, it's one prolonged rebirth.

So, with this cycle comes my annual rite of resolution-making. After reading through the old promises – some held to and some not, I'm inclined to think with renewed optimism – here's another chance! My mission this year includes:

Raising eco-consciousness: I am excited about raising awareness (my own as well as readers') when it comes to protecting our environment. I take an interest in numerous groups from the *Sierra Club* to *Friends of the Earth* to *World Wildlife Fund* to *EWG* (Environmental Working Group), among others. My aim is to learn about threats to health and the environment and to find solutions. Green is perhaps an overused word today, but the concept still needs selling.

Covering all terrains: Part of my self-discovery of late is realizing I can succeed in garden projects I once found daunting, if not impossible. I recently undertook a project to outfit a home in the tropics (not mine) with plants suitable for the place and the occupants. It was an amazing undertaking and with my husband's prodding, I accomplished the task, pretty much single-handedly. Now if I can do that, I can grow my own Globe artichokes!

Purging the shed overload: The shed, the shed, my kingdom for a tidy shed! It's not a new plea, but the battle goes on. I must expunge unnecessary things from the garden shed, such as materials that have outlived their use – chemicals that have illegible packaging and broken hoses and such. My fear is that the minute I get rid of that scrap chicken wire, I will have a need for it.

Taking notes: Keeping a garden journal is a task that I actually look forward to, yet one I haven't done with consistency. My excuse – a lame one – is that I am usually busy writing this, but truly there are many things that compete for my time. I've been slightly more attentive with the camera – but too often this is also done on the fly. Realizing this resolve may require slowing down in general.

Bee hiving: I'm persevering in this challenging hobby. My dad was a beekeeper so maybe I've got some hereditary flair for it. This is an area I like very much to learn more about – even though I've been attempting it for a decade. I have a hive at a farm in Fairhaven and, as of this year, put one at my parents' home in Norfolk County. It will be interesting to contrast the two hives and

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the honey produced. To be productive, bees must have access to a succession of nectar and pollen plants from early spring to late fall.

Expansion (groan from my husband): I liken myself to Napoleon when it comes to expanding my gardens. Lawns that stand in the way will be divided and conquered. I have a campaign to convert a long portion against a hedge into gardens. One part is in semi-shade and has white ponds in the upper story. The other is open and sunny and leads out to my greenhouse. I emulate Scandinavian gardens and would like to incorporate a section that is natural woodland made up of evergreens and birches.

Writing on and on: Over the years as a writer, I've tested a variety of formats, ranging from travelogue to interview to feature to journal to reportorial. And that is how I hope to keep it: the proverbial box of chocolates, a little variety and mystery to bite into each week. As a former English major who disdained writing, I must admit it's my oxygen now. It sounds strange to my own ears, but I look forward to this weekly column.

Whatever your garden plans and dreams are, I hope you achieve them this year. Don't forget to enjoy your labor in the garden. As the Bard wrote in Troilus and Cressida, "Things won are done; joy's soul lies in the doing."

"The only real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." – Marcel Proust

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The Battle of Quebec

This Week in Revolutionary War History

By Sam Bishop

This week in Revolutionary War history, let's

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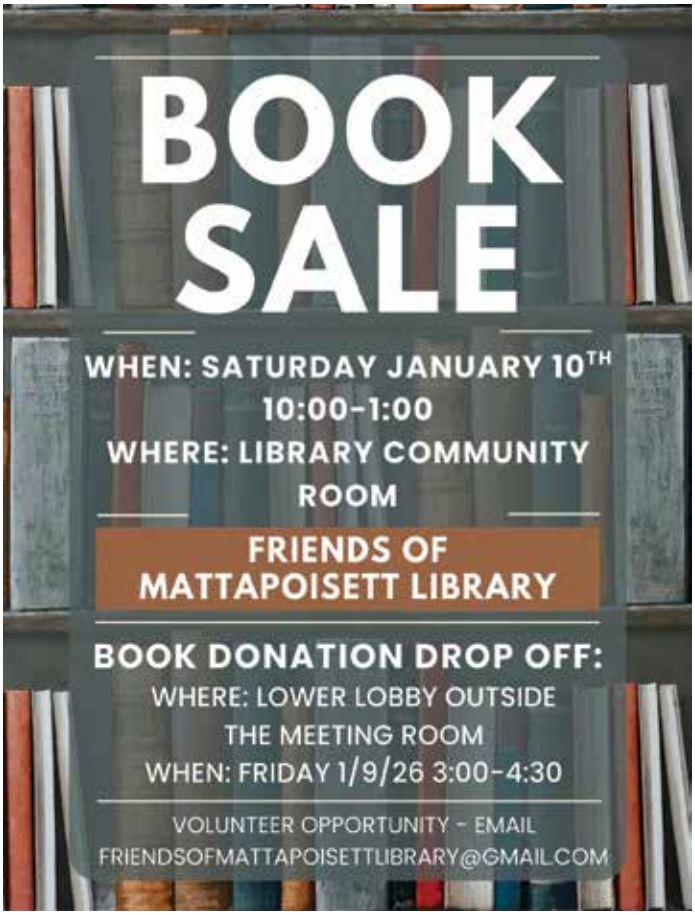
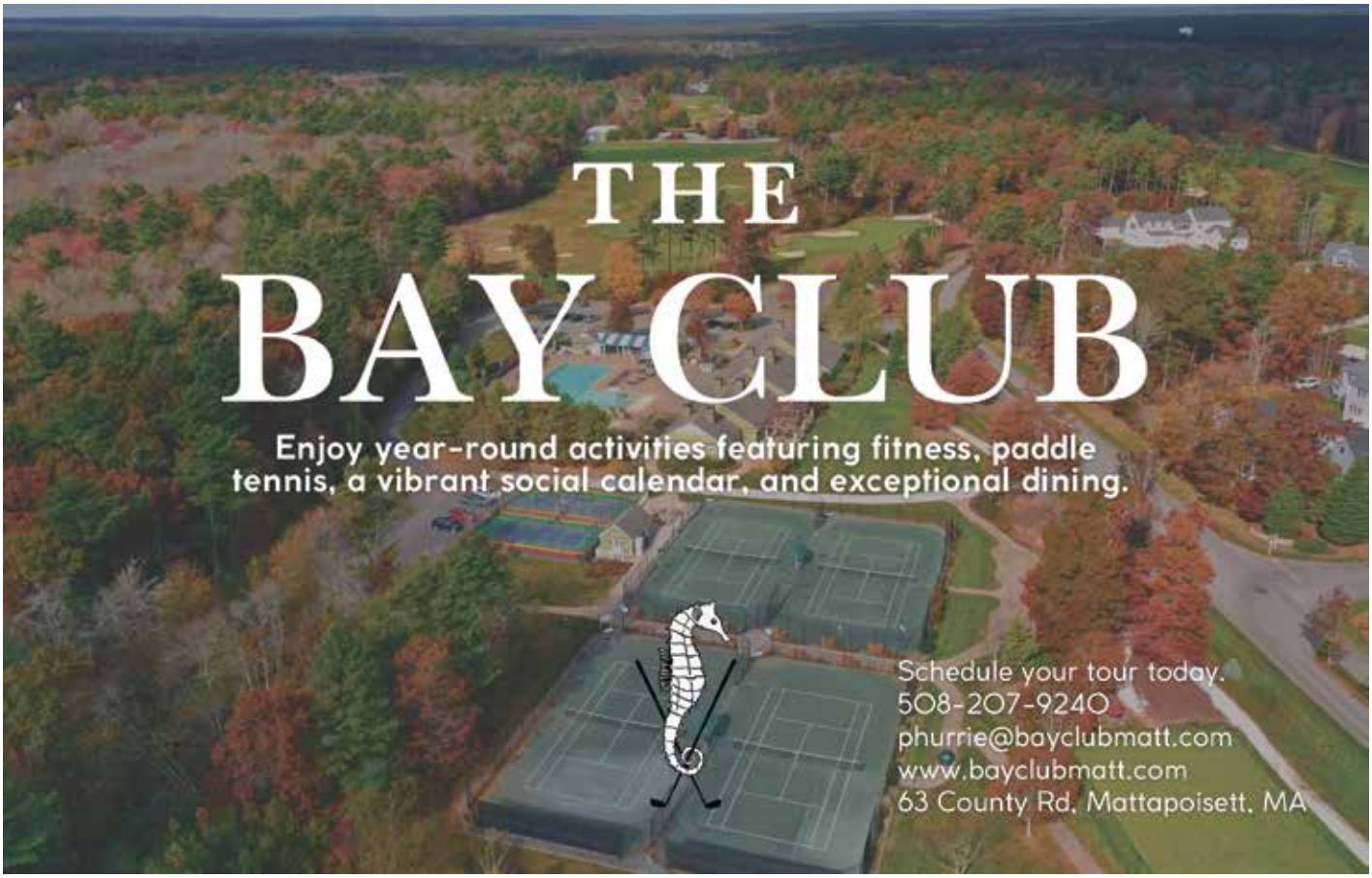
check up on what was going on 250 years ago in and around the colonial Province of Massachusetts Bay as the Revolutionary War ramps up. Last week, General George Washington implemented a strict rationing policy to troops stationed in Cambridge and around Boston as supplies dwindle. Troop contracts are up on January 1, and Washington convinces General Richard Montgomery and Major General Philip Schuyler to stick it out a bit longer. As we approach New Years, 1776, far in the north, the Americans press against Quebec with what little they have left, all while a nor'easter descends across Canada.

December 31, 1775, is a famed day in Canadian history, often forgotten in the United States. It is fitting then, that the national motto of the Province of Quebec

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is “Je me souviens,” or “I remember.” The night of December 30, General Montgomery gave the fatal orders to advance on the city, with the battle itself occurring during a blizzard in the pitch-black early morning of New Year’s Eve.

Quebec City was a walled fortress atop steep cliffs. The thick walls were made of sandstone mined from around the Saint Lawrence. The ramparts still stand, and they and the old town are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The British had captured the city from the French just 15 years prior during the Seven Years’/French and Indian War, with the British later bolstering the city’s defenses.

The American side consisted of around 1,200 men, mostly from New England, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. There were 1,800 British behind the walls, including many that had fled from the captured Montreal in November. A general rule of warfare is to not storm an entrenched enemy with a smaller number of troops. This highlights the Americans’ need for decisive action while also foreshadowing their disastrous defeat.

As the winds raged and snow blanketed the streets, men’s muskets were clogged and frozen up. Montgomery would draw his sword to advance, but was killed by a cannon grapeshot before closing the distance with the enemy. His offense would eventually evaporate, with few being able to flee death or capture. One successfully fleeing this column was Captain Aaron Burr.

Benedict Arnold led another block of troops, not faring much better. Fire rang out from atop the walls, and Continental troops scattered and became lost in the fray. Attempting to pass a blockade, Arnold was badly wounded and was carried away from battle. General Daniel Morgan would take command and would subsequently be captured by the British not long after.

In the end, around 50 Americans would be killed and another nearly 400 would be captured. Only five Redcoats were killed. Arnold would barely make it out alive, and would never truly heal the injury from a ricocheted musket ball nor the resentment he held following his grueling march north to monumental defeat.

Washington would not know the status of this battle for some time, as the world entered 1776 and America’s hopes of annexing Canada as a “Fourteenth Colony” were gone.

On January 4, 1776, Washington writes from Cambridge to John Hancock and the Continental Congress assuring an attack on Boston “shall be attempted to be put in execution.” He would add, “It is not in the pages of history perhaps, to furnish a case like ours; to maintain a post within musket shot of the enemy for six months together.” Still not knowing of the fate of Quebec, he says victories there and in Boston would be “the most fortunate event of my whole life.”

On January 5, due to an unforeseen rise in temperatures, Colonel Henry Knox informs Washington he will not be able to cross the Hudson River with his artillery until the river refreezes. He says he will likely have to wait eight or nine days.

On January 6, Washington writes to Governor of Rhode Island Nicholas Cooke. He begins by thanking Cooke for much-needed supply deliveries. He then says, “I am told [British] Captain Wallace’s ships have been supplied for some time with provisions by the Town of Newport.” The Newport-ruling Town Council had come to an agreement with Britain to avoid being captured, while the town’s wealthy merchants also profit off the war. Washington states the repair of relations between Great Britain and America is impossible, and Newport must cease any correspondence and cooperation with the enemy.

Former Old Colony Teacher Convicted

The Whole Story

By Sam Bishop

After three days of the trial, on December 12, Andre Arsenault, 37, was found guilty on all eleven counts by the jury at his trial held in Brockton Superior Court. He was convicted of nine counts of indecent assault and battery, one count of assault with intent to rape, and one count of rape. These charges all resulted from instances occurring at Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School. The victim was a student at the school with the abuse happening between 2021 and 2022.

Rochester Police had arrested Arsenault in

March 2025 following the victim coming forward in 2022. Rochester Police Chief Michael Assad Jr. said, "This verdict reflects the tireless work, professionalism, and dedication of everyone involved. I want to specifically recognize the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, particularly Assistant District Attorney Jim Duffy and Assistant District Attorney Jordyn Carpenter, whose preparation and advocacy were exceptional. I also commend Detective Catherine Connolly of the Rochester Police Department for her outstanding investigative work and unwavering commitment to this case. Sergeant Connor Leddin was also an integral part of the case, and I appreciate his professionalism and hard work. Most importantly, today's outcome represents justice for the victim, whose strength and courage throughout this process cannot be overstated."

December 19, Andre Arsenault was sentenced in Brockton Superior Court to five years in Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Lancaster. Following his release in late-2030, he will be on probation for two years. Arsenault has a wife and children of his own and had been Old Colony's culinary arts teacher. He had a long history with Old Colony, having graduated from the school's Culinary Arts Department in 2006. The school as of yet has not released an official comment following the verdict.

Public Shows Support for Local Businesses

Marion Select Board

By Sam Bishop

The Police Station's conference room was packed with standing room only for the Marion Select Board's meeting on Tuesday. About 40 people crowded in, with the walls of the room lined with people eager to support local businesses looking to attain liquor-license approval from the board. There were three public hearings scheduled, as well as some important updates from the town administrator.

First was a Public Hearing for J. Sull Wine at 119 Wareham Road by Joel and Vicky Sull. They received nothing but support from those who spoke from the public, with speakers citing Sull Wine's willingness to "serve the community" and "eagerness to help others." Another member of the public said, "they're smart, they're customer focused. They know the business, and it'd be great to have them get a new license to open up more opportunities to improve their profits." Others cited "improvements made to the property" and "increased curb appeal" as their reason for voicing support. There were no negative comments and, thus, the hearing was closed. Much of the room then got up to leave, having fulfilled their goal. As people piled out, Chair Randy Parker had to ask the public to "remain quiet so we can continue our meeting."

The board then quickly went through action items before the opening of the next Public Hearing. They approved a Special One Day Alcohol Beverage License for ICJ Corp. at the Marion Music Hall on February 13. They also approved an annual report to the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) and an update to the Water & Sewer Regulations Review Committee Charter.

Town Administrator Geoffrey Gorman talked about putting a mural on the inside wall by the entrance of the Town House. They're currently looking at various concepts for a mural and would like it to be done by the end of the summer. A design contest would potentially open in March, with a decision to narrow down options the following month. Residents would next vote online, with the presentation of the mural being at a future Select Board meeting. Finally, the mural would be completed

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and unveiled towards the end of the summer. Some potential requirements were discussed, such as only allowing artists 18 or older, the design being non-political, only being open to Marion residents, one submission per applicant, and others.

The town administrator then offered an update on the status of the new Department of Public Works building. He said, "Presently, we're looking at $93,061.09 under budget." Select Board Vice Chair John Hoagland then asked how much solar implementation would cost, to which Parker stated $90,000. The board unanimously agreed to look into the feasibility of adding solar, using the excess funds.

The next Public Hearing began and was for Megan Corp's Light House on the corner of Route 6 and Converse Road. Keshan Patel spoke in behalf of his mother, the property's owner. The previous tenant was evicted, and the owners of the building would like to take over the previous business. Currently the building is vacant, although the front window has been fixed and utilities are functioning. Patel explained there had been an eviction process levied towards previous tenants, with them being taken to court. No members of the public spoke for or against. If they did not receive the licenses, Patel said they would explore either opening a convenience store or leasing out office space. The hearing was closed.

The town administrator then gave a Town House update. "It's great over there. I'm very much looking forward to it." Gorman said the renovation work on the Town House would be completed by the beginning of August. He added they would like to hold an open house over the summer.

Executive Assistant Donna Hemphill was given public praise for her work with approving approximately 100 licenses and inspections in the past weeks. "It went smoothly. We are done for this year," she said. Gorman added they are working on a grant proposal for electronic licensing.

Gorman spoke on UMass Boston's Harbor Institute winning the bid for a 12-to-18-month assessment towards a Harbor Management Plan. They won the bid at under the $150,000 maximum awarded by a grant.

The next Public Hearing was for SGT Hospitality's The Atlantic Bistro. Mariana Gonzalez-Trasvina was formerly executive chef of Barcino in Newport, Rhode Island, and is looking to gain ownership of The Atlantic Bistro from Executive Chef Chris Thibeault, who is co-owner with his wife Jennifer Thibeault. Two new owners, Gonzalez-Trasvina and her partner, would be taking over after working there for about four years together. The Thibeaults will be leasing the property to the couple for five years. Hoagland supported the idea, and loved the prospect of takeout and allowing more places to eat throughout the winter months. No comments were made against the proposal.

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The public heating was closed.

The Select Board then moved to debate the closed public hearings. The board agreed unanimously to approve the first, second, and third properties' license requests.

The Select Board then moved to another room for an Executive Session related to the Marion Golf Club.

The next meeting of the Marion Select Board will be held on Tuesday, January 20 at 6:00 pm in the Marion Police Station.

Rochester Rodeo Will Return

Rochester Select Board

By Michael J. DeCicco

Rochester's Select Board Monday signed a new contract with New England Rodeo, allowing the company to continue using the former 18.6-acre Country Fair grounds at 65 Pine Street in 2026.

The rodeos, averaging two per month, were hosted at the Pine Street property from June to October of 2025, and the town earned $41,000 in revenue from the events. Town Administrator Cameron Durant reported before the approval vote Monday what this year's contract will add.

The pact for 2026 will include a $2,500 fee to leave the rodeo equipment on site over the winter. The fee to lease the land for next season will rise from $8,000 per month to $9,000 per month, plus the cost of the electricity the rodeo uses during its season.

Durant noted the revenue for the next rodeo season will jump to $47,000 this coming season, and he elaborated that the rodeo's first season in town was a good one. "No disruptions to safety," Durant said. "Police and Fire had no issues. It had a good year."

Next, the board learned a plan is in the works to consolidate the town's regulations and codes into a database that will be available on the town website. Durant said this would be a resource for residents, search-able by topic. He said the project has been in the works for around five years. It was started by previous town clerk and Select Board member Naida Parker, and it includes 179 changes to town codes.

After his work with a professional consulting firm on what needs to be in it, this "Ecode Project," Durant said, is in a rough-draft stage. He instructed the Select Board to review the document materials. He said the final draft will need to be approved by the Select Board and the Planning Board, then by Town Meeting.

In other business, the board continued to its next meeting a vote on whether to exercise the town's right to purchase two lots covering High Street, County Road, Cross Road and Forbes Road and 5 acres off of Pierce Street. Durant explained the Buzzards Bay Coalition is in the middle of negotiating with the landowner to transfer these properties to that land conservation group.

The next meeting of the Rochester Select Board was not scheduled at adjournment.

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MS4 By-law Regulations Fine Tuned

Marion Planning Board

By Sam Bishop

The Marion Planning Board met on Monday for a Continued Public Hearing on the proposed adoption of stormwater-management regulations to the Stormwater Management Bylaw and amending Subdivision Regulations §300-4.6.

Due to some lighting issues in the Police Station's conference room, Chair Andrew Daniel explained the meeting would be conducted nearly in the dark, with illumination from the hallway and the projector. This hearing had been continued from before the holidays at the Planning Board's December 15 meeting.

"For nearly nine years I have been on a health and wellness learning journey with Coach Derek. I started with group Kikfit classes, which led me to Personal Training with him. Through our long-term relationship, Coach Derek and I have worked as a Team to develop a personalized and sustainable program for me that includes fitness, good nutrition, mindfulness, and healthy living patterns. On my quest for a Better Quality of life, I have gained invaluable Knowledge of what is needed for my personal overall wellness.
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For their first major change, the board discussed and added a stipulation that would require inspection reports due to the Department of Public Works be required by end of year, or December 31. This would simplify the process and make it easier to remember for both the Planning Board and DPW. Daniel also recommended they follow suit with other towns where they put the fee schedule into their regulations, but said they would need a Public Hearing in order to make this change, as any alteration or approval of the fee schedule requires a hearing.

The chair spoke on the eminent departure of Town Clerk Elizabeth "Lissa" Magauran, mentioning the town will have a new clerk "soon."

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The board worked to make wording across the amendment uniform and consistent across, again spending much of the meeting clarifying grammatical discrepancies as they did at last month's meeting.

Daniel made a motion to approve of the changes made at this meeting, although discussion on the amendment itself will continue at future meetings. The chair also repeatedly thanked Senior Administrative Assistant Olivia Prior for her work on facilitating many of the changes made in the amendment.

The next meeting of the Marion Planning Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00 pm. A location has not yet been set, as the Police Department's conference room will be taken by the Select Board at that time.

Randall Lane to Get Solar

Mattapoisett Planning Board

By Marilou Newell

On January 5, the Mattapoisett Planning Board met briefly to handle two agenda items, one of which was ultimately continued.

Continued until February 2 was the Approval Not Required (ANR) filed by Steven Cabral for property owned by Dennis Mahoney and Sons, located at 182 North Street. A preliminary meeting had noted that a family related subdivision of four, four-bedroom single-family homes is planned for construction at the cul-de-sac located at the end of Shady Oak Drive.

Chairman Tom Tucker announced that the applicant requested a continuance until February 2 to give the applicant time to respond to comments received from Natural Heritage. The state program's website explains that the "Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program is responsible for protecting the state's wide range of native biological diversity. Information about species and natural communities, regulations, and how to report your observations are available for citizen scientists, educators, landowners, developers, conservation organizations and other government agencies."

The board approved the site plan for 29 Randall

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Lane for a solar array planned for Randall Lane. Tucker noted that construction-related trucks and heavy equipment are not permitted to pass over the historic stone bridge on River Road for the duration of the work. Application was filed by Randall Lane Solar LLC/the Randall Girls Irrevocable Trust.

Tucker also confirmed that on February 2, the Planning Board will meet at the Fire Station meeting room to conduct a Public Hearing on proposed bylaw changes that would allow cottage-style construction, a type of residential structure with condensed lot configurations and Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) structures.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Planning Board is scheduled for Monday, February 2, at 7:00 pm at the Fire Station meeting room.

Townhouse Project Drainage Approved

Rochester Conservation Commission

By Michael J. DeCicco

Rochester's Conservation Commission on Tuesday approved Steen Realty and Development's amended Order of Conditions for 22 Cranberry Highway that improves the project's drainage plan.

It is the site of a plan for a townhouse development and a 68-unit, age 55-and-over, senior-living apartment building within Rochester Crossroads. Project representative Joseph Sanda explained the development's underground water discharge system has been redesigned in the northern area of the townhouse section to be less intrusive and less impactful than seen in its original design. "It will discharge stormwater further from the wetlands there," he said.

Chair Christopher Gerrior asked whether this means the dumpster in the original plan had been moved. Sanda said, "yes." Gerrior then noted this redesign would mean less water going to wetlands in the only corner of the property under the ConCom's jurisdiction. The approval vote that followed was quick and unanimous.

The plan here includes an apartment building with 68 units for residents age 55-and-up on a 24,000-square-foot lot that would include a full septic system, a drainage network, and underground utilities.

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In other business during the quick meeting, the commission reported the Notice of Intent application to construct at 0 Robinson Road a single-family home with associated grading within the 200-foot riparian zone of a perennial stream has been withdrawn.

The next Rochester Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way.

Skaters Earn First 'W'

Sports Roundup

By Aiden Comorosky

The Old Rochester/Fairhaven hockey team played Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech (3-2) on January 3

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and won 5-4. It was the Bulldogs' first win on the season, as they had two ties prior. ORR/Fairhaven took a 1-0-2 record into its January 7 home game against 5-1-1 Bishop Stang.

Girls Basketball

The Bulldogs hosted Cohasset (1-3) on January 3 and won 39-34. Old Rochester has won three consecutive games and will play at Bishop Stang (1-5) on Thursday, January 8.

Copy Submission Policy

The Wanderer gladly accepts any and all news and press release items from local nonprofit organizations for publication on a weekly basis. The deadline for submission of news items is Monday at noon for publication in that week's edition. Due to the increasing number of submissions; however, publication of press material is never guaranteed. *The Wanderer* will make every effort to publish timely news items and announcements as the subject warrants and as often as spacing allows. All press material must be submitted by email to news@wanderer.com and must be either in a text or Word file. We are not able to retype, correct or hunt down information to repair incomplete press releases, and we are not able to retype or reformat posters or bulleted lists that are not in readable paragraph form. We cannot accept any handwritten material or news items via telephone, no matter how brief.

Photographs of area events and newsmakers are also accepted and encouraged. *The Wanderer* accepts well-lit and clearly defined photographs for publication provided that they include a brief summary of the event or subject. We cannot return photographs. Like news items, the deadline for photos is Monday at noon, and the publication of photographs is also subject to spacing constraints and cannot be guaranteed.

All submitted copy is subject to alterations and/or condensation as space allows at the editor's discretion. All submissions become the property of *The Wanderer* and are assumed to be submitted for the purpose of publication. Submissions cannot be returned; therefore, please make sure to retain copies.

Poems and essays submitted for publication are subject to *The Wanderer's* Copy Submissions and Letters to the Editor policies.

Ideas for features, breaking news tips and other suggestions for the news department are welcome. Please call the News Editor with news tips and ideas at 508-758-9055. If it is after hours, please leave a message or email news@wanderer.com.

Enter *The Wanderer* Groundhog Day Cover Contest!

Calling all aspiring artists! It's time once again for the annual Groundhog Day Cover Contest!

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You can obtain a copy of the official entry form in person by visiting *The Wanderer* office at 55 County Road in Mattapoisett, or by visiting www.wanderer.com and downloading a copy to print.

All submissions must be original works of art (we check, so no cheating), and accompanied by a signed official entry form. No AI submissions, we check that also. Participants may enter just one original artwork into the contest.

Artwork that is formatted in a tall, portrait format will look best on the cover of *The Wanderer*.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, **January 23** at 12:00 pm. Online voting will begin on Saturday, **January 24**, and will remain open until Tuesday, **January 27**.

The cover contest winner will be announced in the January 30 edition and will be contacted to retrieve their cash prize.

Full contest details can be found at www.wanderer.com.

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Celebrate the midpoint of winter with *The Wanderer* on Groundhog Day and hope for an early spring! Now go, get those cover submissions ready and get them to us before it's too late!

ORRSD Awarded $30K MA Fresh Grant

Old Rochester Regional (ORR) School District and MA Superintendency Union #55 Superintendent Michael S. Nelson and Director of Food and Nutrition Jill Henesey are pleased to share that the school district was awarded $30,000 in MA FRESH Grant funding from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office for Food and Nutrition Programs.

The MA FRESH (Farming Reinforces Education and Student Health) Grant is a competitive, state-funded program that supports farm-to-school initiatives and food literacy education. In its most recent round, the program awarded $1.2 million to school districts and early education programs across Massachusetts to expand access to locally sourced food and hands-on learning opportunities.

ORR is using the $30,000 grant to support experiential learning activities centered on school gardens and food systems education, with students participating in hands-on lessons involving germination, pollination, bee hives and honeycombs. These hands-on learning experiences help students better understand the connections between agriculture, science, environmental

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stewardship and the fruits, vegetables and other produce sold at local supermarkets.

These learning experiences are taking place at Old Hammondtown School, Sippican Elementary School, and Rochester Memorial School, giving students across multiple grade levels the opportunity to engage directly with food literacy concepts both inside and outside the classroom.

Similar grant-funded projects are taking place at 23 other school districts and 10 early education programs throughout the state with the support of the MA FRESH grant, funded by the Massachusetts Legislature and administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"We are delighted to see a diversity of programs and communities receive funding to further food education opportunities, enhance school meals highlighting local foods, and establish food literacy programs in schools," said Simca Horwitz, co-director of the Massachusetts Farm to School program. "We are thankful for our Massachusetts Legislators and the Healey-Driscoll Administration for making these funds available to schools and childcare centers across the Commonwealth to do this important work. We see emerging and vibrant educational and meal programs tapping into this innovative funding to support the kind of farm to school programming we envision for every community in the Commonwealth."

Superintendent Nelson and Director Henesey thanked the Healey-Driscoll Administration and state legislators for providing the MA FRESH Grant. They also commended teachers and students throughout the district who continue to champion food literacy and hands-on learning.

"This grant is helping our educators bring food literacy to life, providing our students with engaging, real-world experiences," said Director of Food and Nutrition Jill Henesey. "By learning about pollination, bees, and local food systems, students gain a deeper appreciation for where their food comes from and how it connects to their health and environment. These are lessons that they will take with them and share for the rest of their lives."

"The MA FRESH Grant aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing high-quality, well-rounded educational opportunities," said Superintendent Michael S. Nelson. "We are grateful for the state's investment in programs that support student learning, wellness, and meaningful connections to the local community. I'd like to also thank all of our teachers who are implementing these hands-on learning opportunities and congratulate all of our students who are embracing food literacy, which is so important for as we grow in knowledge of nutrition, agriculture and environmental stewardship."

Letters to the Editor

The views expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily those of The Wanderer, its staff or advertisers. The Wanderer will gladly accept any and all correspondence relating to timely and pertinent issues in the great Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester area, provided they include the author's name, address and phone number for verification. We cannot publish anonymous, unsigned or unconfirmed submissions. The Wanderer reserves the right to edit, condense and otherwise alter submissions for purposes of clarity and/or spacing considerations. The Wanderer may choose to not run letters that thank businesses, and The Wanderer has the right to edit letters to omit business names. The Wanderer also reserves the right to deny publication of any submitted correspondence. All letters must be typed and submitted directly to: news@wanderer.com.

Dear Editor,

The recent strikes against Venezuela set a troubling precedent. When powerful nations choose to intervene abroad, whether through military force, covert

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operations, or economic pressure, they often leave behind fractured societies, weakened institutions, and enduring instability. Those who initiate these actions walk away unscathed, but the resulting destabilization represents a moral debt that must be addressed.

Imagine a neighbor who smashes your fence and then insists it's your problem to fix. On the global stage, this is how powerful nations behave when they destabilize countries and abandon them. The principle should be simple: you break it, you fix it. Yet international politics routinely allows the strongest actors to evade accountability, leaving ordinary people to carry the cost.

Destabilization means children growing up in refugee camps instead of classrooms. It means families facing hunger as supply chains collapse. It means communities torn apart by violence. To abandon this man-made devastation in Venezuela is not merely negligence; it is complicity in suffering.

Responsibility for this harm requires several concrete steps. First, acknowledgment of harm: our nation must openly admit its role in destabilization, because silence signals denial, and denial deepens wounds. Second, restorative action: funding reconstruction, supporting displaced populations, and investing in long-term stability. Third, respect for sovereignty: recovery must strengthen local institutions rather than impose puppet leadership or exploitative economic arrangements. Fourth, justice mechanisms: truth commissions, reparations, and international accountability are not optional ideals; they are essential tools for healing.

Governments rarely volunteer to accept such responsibility. Instead, they move on to the next geopolitical contest. That is why civic voices matter. Citizens must demand accountability and insist that foreign policy is not a game of power but a matter of human lives. Destabilization is not a strategy; it is a wound, and wounds require care.

Unless citizens demand accountability, the cycle of intervention and abandonment will persist, causing the world's most vulnerable to suffer the consequences.

Finally, if the U.S. entered Venezuela solely to arrest a criminal defendant, a goal already achieved, why is it necessary to remain and manage the country when Executive Vice President Delcy Rodríguez is next in line for leadership?

Eileen J. Marum, Marion

Academic Achievements

Stephen Sauerbrey of Marion has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2025 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

ORRHS AP Seminar Students Complete First Performance Assessment

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson and Principal

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Local Cable Programming

ORCTV

Check www.orctv.org for the latest updates to the schedule.

PUBLIC ACCESS
Comcast Channel 9
Verizon Channel 36

Thursday January 8, 2026
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
8:30 AM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Lee Gunschel
9:30 AM Mattapoisett Woman's Club Speaker Series - Jack Matthews
10:30 AM Rochester Historical Society - Cemeteries, Genealogy, & the Revolutionary War
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
1:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
2:00 PM The Collective Chat
2:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
3:00 PM MAC Jazz Jam
4:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert
6:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
6:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
7:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
7:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
8:00 PM Teach Your Home Energy Costs! with David Green
9:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Amazing Animal Ambassadors
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Friday January 9, 2026
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
10:00 AM Southcoast Matters
11:30 AM Fall Family Fun Day
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Rochester Affordable Housing Inc ADU Presentation
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
3:30 PM The Collective Chat
3:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
3:30 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Lee Gunschel
5:00 PM Tri-Town Christmas Events
5:30 PM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
8:30 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
9:00 PM A Conversation With…
9:30 PM Fur, Fins and Feathers
10:00 PM For Your Health
10:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Saturday January 10, 2026
6:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoon Festival
9:30 AM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert
11:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
11:30 AM Tri-Town Christmas Events
12:00 PM Mid-Day Movie
2:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
2:30 PM The Human Truth - with Chuck McIntyre
3:00 PM The Collective Chat
3:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Bill MacDougall
5:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - Wampanoag Art for the Ages
6:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - From Submarine Vents to Life on Other Ocean Worlds!
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
8:30 PM Paltrocast - with Darren Paltrowitz
9:00 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 PM A Conversation with…
10:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
10:30 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movies

Sunday January 11, 2026
7:00 AM Lamb of God Christian Church
8:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
9:00 AM First Congregational Church of Rochester
10:00 AM St Gabriel's Church
11:00 AM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
1:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
2:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Shift
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
4:00 PM Miss New Bedford
5:00 PM Putnam Murdock Concert at the Marion Art Center
7:00 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs Bishop Stang
8:30 PM ORR Boys Ice Hockey vs Monomoy
10:00 PM ORR Girls Basketball
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Monday January 12, 2026
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
10:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Shift
10:30 AM A Conversation With…
11:00 AM For Your Health
11:30 AM Money Matters
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters
2:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
3:00 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
3:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
4:30 PM The Human Truth
5:00 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
6:30 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
7:30 PM Sippican Historical Society - Women's Involvement in the History of Preservation in New England
8:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - The Early Life of Humpback Whales
9:30 PM The Collective Chat
10:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
10:30 PM AMC Outdoor Journey Fund
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Tuesday January 13, 2026
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM For Your Health: Stress
8:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
9:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club
10:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartooning
10:30 AM The Collective Chat
11:00 AM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
11:30 AM In the Toy Box
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Point Road Park Renaming Ceremony
1:30 PM Miss New Bedford Insider
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
3:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
4:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus On Europe
4:30 PM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
5:00 PM Four Deep Sports Talk
6:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - 100 years of the Herreshoff H-12
8:00 PM The Beacon Hill Report
9:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movie

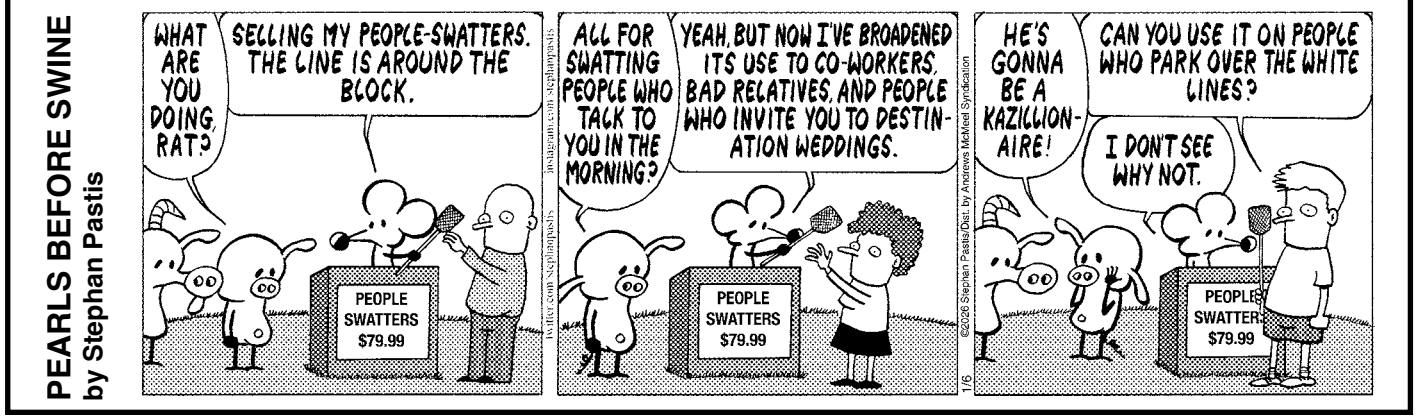
Wednesday January 14, 2026
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Cape Conversations
8:30 AM For Your Health
9:00 AM Two Grannies on the Road
10:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
10:30 AM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
11:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters TV
2:00 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
2:30 PM Money Talk Tuesday
3:00 PM A Conversation With…
3:30 PM ORR Girls Soccer vs Fairhaven
5:30 PM Beacon Hill Report
6:00 PM Building the Future
6:30 PM Pete on the Street
7:00 PM World Fusion Show
7:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
9:00 PM Teach your Home Energy Costs! With David Green
10:30 PM Mattapoisett Women's Club Speaker Series - Jack Matthews
11:00 PM Classic Movies

MARION GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 39
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Marion Board of Selectmen
9:00 AM Marion Conservation Commission
10:00 AM Marion Planning Board
11:00 AM Marion Water and Sewer
1:00 PM Marion School Committee
2:30 PM Marion Zoning Board of Appeals
3:00 PM Marion Affordable Housing Committee
4:00 PM Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission
5:30 PM Marion Finance Committee
6:00 PM Marion Board of Health
6:30 PM Marion Board of Selectmen
8:30 PM Marion Conservation Commission
9:30 PM Marion Planning Board
11:30 PM Marion Water and Sewer

ROCHESTER GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 40
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Rochester Board of Selectmen
8:00 AM Rochester Planning Board
9:30 AM ORR School Committee
10:30 AM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
12:30 AM Rochester Conservation Commission
1:30 PM Rochester School Committee
3:30 PM ORR Joint School Committee
5:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen
6:00 PM Rochester Planning Board
7:30 PM Rochester Conservation Commission
8:30 PM Rochester School Committee
10:30 PM ORR School Committee
11:30 PM Rochester Planning Board

EDUCATION CHANNEL
Comcast Channel 8
Verizon Channel 37
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Bulldog Weekly
1:00 PM ORR Football vs GNBVT
2:30 PM ORR Unified Basketball
3:30 PM ORR Boys Soccer vs Somerset Berkley
5:00 PM ORR Field Hockey vs Apponequet
6:30 PM ORR Football vs Dartmouth
8:30 PM ORR Boys Soccer vs Dighton-Rehoboth
10:00 PM ORR Girls Soccer vs Seekonk
10:30 PM ORR Field Hockey vs Somerset Berkely

MATTAPOISETT GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 38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PEOPLE SWATTERS $79.99

Michael Devoll are proud to announce that Old Rochester Regional High School AP Seminar students recently shared their Team Multimedia Presentations, successfully completing AP Task 1.

Students worked in teams to identify a problem and conduct individual research before creating a Team Multimedia Presentation. Each presentation explored a research question related to the group's subject, with topics including "Designer Babies: The Misuse of Genetic Enhancement," "The Effect of Childcare Prices on Families," "Bee Population Decline in Massachusetts" and "The Effects of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare within Massachusetts."

Teams from Kathleen Brunelle's and Andrew Apperson's AP Seminar classes presented their research on December 16 in the media center.

AP Task 1 was the first of two performance assessments students complete during their AP Seminar experience.

Superintendent Nelson congratulated the students on their achievement.

"It is fulfilling to see the AP Seminar students work together to achieve a common goal," Superintendent Nelson said. "Their ability to pivot from independent research to collaborating on the presentations was impressive. The teamwork they demonstrated in AP Task 1 will continue to benefit them both in and out of the classroom, and we are proud to see our students practicing these skills."

Principal Devoll recognized the successful Team Multimedia Presentations.

"I'd like to congratulate Ms. Brunelle's and Mr.

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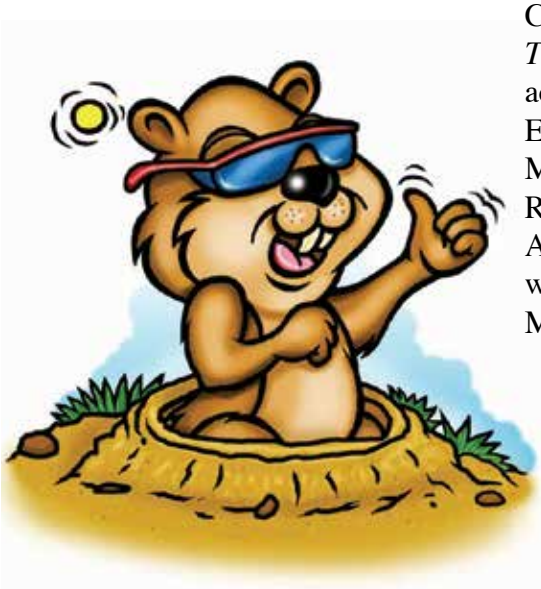
Groundhog Cover Contest

The Wanderer is once again holding our Groundhog Day Cover Contest. The winner's artwork will appear on the cover of our January 29 issue. The winner will also receive a cash prize of $100!



Create an original work of art to be displayed on the cover of *The Wanderer*. Anything that can be displayed on the cover is acceptable, photos, drawings, paintings, etc.
Entries are due in The Wanderer office, 55 County Road, Mattapoisett by noon on January 23.
Remember, all artwork should be tall to best fit on our cover.
All entries must include a signed copy of the Official Entry Form which can be picked up at The Wanderer office, 55 County Road, Mattapoisett or downloaded at www.wanderer.com

Voting will start on January 24 and end on January 27. To vote, visit our web page at: **www.wanderer.com.** The winner will be on the cover of our January 30th edition.

OBITUARIES

Daune E. (Nichols) Smith of Fairhaven, died peacefully on Sunday, December 28, 2025. She was the wife of the late William G. Smith.

Born and educated in New Bedford she spent the last 24 years living in Fairhaven surrounded by many good friends in her McGann Terrace neighborhood.

Survivors include her two sons, David A. Smith and his wife Dawn of Wallingford, CT, and Mark W. Smith and his wife Beth of Plymouth, MA; 9 grandchildren, 1 great-granddaughter, and her beloved niece Susan Dansereau along with many other nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her 7 siblings and her husband.

A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 11am-1pm in the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Road, Mattapoisett.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Southcoast Health Cancer Center at 206 Mill Road, Fairhaven, MA 02719. For online guestbook, please visit www.saundersdwyer.com

Christina Szwaja (née Curry), age 99, of Acushnet, Massachusetts passed away peacefully on December 30th, 2025 at her daughter's house in Mattapoisett, surrounded by her loving family. A devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, she touched the lives of all who knew her with her generosity, warmth, and strength. Her unwavering love for family and friends was the cornerstone of her life.

Born in Ennistymon, County Clare, on the west coast of Ireland, Christina was the daughter of Patrick Curry and Sarah (Dillon) Curry. She attended the College of Domestic Economy in Dublin, where she developed skills that would serve her throughout her life. During World War II, seeking opportunity and adventure, she moved to London to work and lived with two of her sisters.

It was in London that Christina met the love of her life, Paul Szwaja, who was serving as a US Naval Courier. After World War II, they married in Dublin, Ireland, and embarked on a new chapter together. The couple moved to the United States, settling in Acushnet Massachusetts in the home lovingly built by Paul. There, they welcomed their four children and built a life filled with love and dedication. Christina later began working as a skilled seamstress at several clothing manufacturers in New Bedford Massachusetts, including Gro-Toges and Elco Dress Company. A talented artisan, she took great pride in her craft, designing and creating beautiful dresses for special occasions, including wedding dresses that brought joy to a few very special brides. Her meticulous attention to detail and artistic eye made her work truly exceptional, and her creations became cherished memories for those who wore them.

Christina was predeceased by her beloved husband Paul, her six brothers, her five sisters, and her son-in-law Wayne Leshyk. She is survived by her four children: Joanne Leshyk of San Juan Capistrano, California; Michael Szwaja and his wife Mary of Cromwell, Connecticut; Kathleen Kvilhaug and her husband Magnar of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts; and Paul Szwaja of New Bedford, Massachusetts; eleven grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews, all of whom will cherish her memory and forever hold her in their hearts.

Blessed with good health throughout her life, Christina enjoyed her final years in peace and serenity in Mattapoisett, lovingly cared for by family and friends. She entered into hospice care with grace and dignity, surrounded by those who loved her dearly.

Her family received guests on Tuesday, January 6th at the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett followed by her Funeral Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church, 125 Main St. Acushnet. Burial followed in Acushnet Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to Hospice at Southcoast Health at Home, 200 Mill Road, Suite 201, Fairhaven, MA 02719, (508) 973-3200. For guestbook, visit www.saunders-dwyer.com.

Charles Terrence Smith of Mattapoisett, MA passed away on December 23, 2025 after a brief battle with cancer. He was 82 years old.

Born on May 25,1943 in Buffalo, NY, Charlie was the child of Charles and Anne Smith. He grew up as the second of five brothers and with a flock of neighbors in Newton, MA. Charlie attended secondary school at St. Sebastian's and received his undergraduate degree in English from the University of Notre Dame. He returned to Boston to obtain his MBA from Harvard Business School.

After a post-grad year in Bermuda, Charlie worked in New York City as an investment banker and then CFO of Video Corporation of America. Ultimately, Charlie left the corporate world and started his own company in 1995, DataLath LLC, which brought him independence and immense pride.

Charlie (affectionately nicknamed "Terry" or "Doc") met his wife, Eleanor Katherine Tanis, at the wedding of his brother, Tom, and Ellie's roommate, Nancy. During their 56 years of marriage, Charlie and Ellie took advantage of all that Manhattan had to offer while living as newlyweds, raised their

Continued on page 26

Apperson's AP Seminar classes on their impressive AP Task 1 presentations," Principal Devoll said. "Each team found success in identifying a problem, conducting research and working as a team to create a final presentation. Both classes performed well in Task 1, and I am confident they will thrive in the final performance assessment."

Color Class with the MNHM Journaling Group

In this class we will explore color theory, the color wheel, making color swatches, color mixing and matching, and all about complementary colors, primary, secondary and tertiary colors. This class will also touch on values, hues, shades, tones and tints, gray scale and warm and cool colors and the differences between all of these. Let's have fun learning, creating, and sharing with other like-minded people. Please bring something colorful from nature, flowers fruit, vegetables, seed pods, shells, etc.., that you can learn to color match. Program date: **January 10**, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. To register please go to the Marion Natural History Museum's website: www.marionmuseum.org.

Come Sing with Sippican Choral Society

Rehearsals for the SCS Spring 2026 concert, "The Glory of Spring," will begin on Monday, **January 12**, at 7:00 pm, at Wickenden Chapel, 86 Spring St., Marion. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and singers are asked to come early to register and pick up their music envelopes. If you are unsure about being able to sing with the group, come anyway, try out the music for two weeks, then decide. Dues of $40.00 are due by the third rehearsal for all singers. Membership details can be found on our website at sippicanchoralsociety.org.

The concert itself will be held at Wickenden Chapel on Sunday, May 3, at 4:00 pm. The featured work will be Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria," one of sacred music's most uplifting choral works. The group will also perform Mendelssohn's gentle prayer, "Verleih uns Frieden." These pieces, together with the lovely harmonies of Haydn, the humor of Gilbert and Sullivan, and the rousing rhythms of American spirituals, guarantee a most glorious welcome to Spring.

Mattapoisett Disability Commission Seeking New Members

The Mattapoisett Disability Commission is seeking new members. The Commission meets once a month in the evening and is currently working to identify projects to improve accessibility of Town facilities. The next meeting of the Commission will be held **January 28**, at 5:00 pm at Town Hall, all are invited to attend. If you are interested in serving on the Commission, please send a letter of interest to the Select Board or fill out the volunteer form on the Town's website, Mattapoisett.gov/443/Boards-Committees.

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Beavers - More than Soft Fur and Flat Tails

Join the Marion Natural History Museum on **January 30** at 6:00 pm when we welcome Wildlife Biologist Steven Wright of Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife to learn about these fascinating animals.

American Indians called the beaver the "sacred center" of the land because this species creates such rich, watery habitat for other mammals, fish, turtles, frogs, birds and ducks. We now know that beaver damming provides essential natural services for people too.

Beavers prefer to dam streams in shallow valleys, where the flooded area becomes productive wetlands. These cradles of life support biodiversity that rivals tropical rain forests. Almost half of endangered and threatened species in North America rely upon wetlands. Freshwater wetlands have been rated as the world's most valuable land-based ecosystem.

Beavers reliably and economically maintain wetlands that sponge up floodwater, alleviate droughts and floods (because their dams keep water on the land longer), lesson erosion, raise the water table and act as the "earth's kidneys" to purify water.

Please register for this fascinating program about one of our most ambitious mammals at www.marionmuseum.org.

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daughters, Anne and Laura, in suburban Wyckoff, NJ and Darien, CT, and enjoyed their retirement in Mattapoisett, MA.

Sailing was Charlie's favorite pass-time, and he loved to share it with family and friends. It was on the waters of Long Island Sound that he first discovered his passion for racing aboard his beloved Ensign Fred at Noroton Yacht Club. In Mattapoisett, he spent Wednesday nights racing his Cape Dory the Chickadee with a loyal crew at the Mattapoisett Yacht Club. He loved cruising with family and friends, exploring Buzzards Bay and the New England coastline on the weekends. Active in retirement, he and Ellie traveled to Arizona and Florida every winter, enjoyed bike riding, kayaking, and walking around Point Connett, and cheered on Notre Dame in football and women's basketball. Charlie also rowed whale boats with the Gray Buzzards in New Bedford and volunteered for the Yacht Club, Damien's Food Pantry, and the Mattapoisett Land Trust. In 2020, Charlie reestablished longtime friendships with his school friends via weekly Zoom chats which continue to this day. Charlie was known for his quiet wisdom, wry sense of humor, kindness, and patience. He was a caring neighbor and a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Charlie is survived by his wife Eleanor, his daughters and sons-in-law, Anne and Colin White and Laura and Ben Forssell, his grandchildren Reid, Maeve, and Kylie, Henry and wife Brittany, Iva, Kira, and Duncan, his great-grandchildren Weston and Thomas, and his brothers Tom, Steve, Richard and Jeff and their families.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 24 at 11am at St. Gabriel's Church in Marion, MA with a reception to follow at the Inn on Shipyard Park in Mattapoisett. Friends and family are invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Charlie's memory to Damien's Food Pantry in Wareham.

George O. Arguin, 85, of Mattapoisett, passed away peacefully on December 31, 2025, surrounded by the love of his wife and children.

Born in New Bedford on February 16, 1940, he was the son of the late Theophile and Laurette Arguin. A natural athlete in his youth, George was a standout football player, leaving his mark on the field at Bishop Coyle High School, American International College (AIC), and with the semi-professional Murphy Club.

After marrying the love of his life, Kathleen, George stepped into the role of proprietor for his family's printshop. He dedicated over 40 years to the business, earning a reputation as a tireless worker who mastered the "jack of all trades" lifestyle. Despite the long hours required to run the shop, George's priority remained his family; he possessed the rare ability to be both a provider and a constant, present fixture in the lives of his wife and children. Together with Kathleen, he built a beautiful home and a full life in Mattapoisett.

George was a man of vibrant energy and humor-truly the life of every party and a perpetual joker who loved to make people laugh. During the winter months, he was most at home on the ski slopes, a passion he shared deeply with his family. He leaves behind a legacy of hard work, devotion, and joy.

George is survived by his beloved wife, Kathleen (Canal) Arguin; his son, Matthew Arguin; his daughter, Sarah Arguin-Humenuk; and his two cherished grandchildren, Elin and Nolan Arguin-Humenuk, all of Mattapoisett. He also leaves behind his sister, Lillian Richard of New Bedford, along with a host of nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Roland Arguin.

His Memorial Visitation will be held Friday, January 9, 2026 from 4-7 pm in the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Mattapoisett. For directions and guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.

Sarah D. (Souza) Lawton, loving mother, grandmother and friend, of Mattapoisett, passed away peacefully on December 29, 2025 at Alden Court Nursing Care and Rehabilitation Center. She was born in New Bedford to the late Arthur G. and Olivia B. (Ellis) Souza. She leaves behind her son, Arthur W. Lawton and his wife Kimberly of Fairhaven; her daughter, Kathleen Coughlin and her husband Francis of Mattapoisett; her granddaughter Rylie Olivia Coughlin, the greatest blessing in her life, her "buddy and best friend", and her dear friends Elizabeth Ann Bruce and the late Herman Bruce. She was predeceased by her beloved cousin and friend Harriet Ane Didriksen.

Sarah was a Teacher's Aide at Parker and Carney Academy Elementary schools in New Bedford before taking a job at the New Bedford Gas & Electric Company, now Eversource, where she worked for over 25 years, making lasting friendships. After retirement, Sarah was a hostess at Mike's Restaurant, another place where she made lasting friendships. In fact, Sarah seemed to make friends wherever she went.

She loved to travel, practiced yoga regularly, and was a member of the Mattapoisett Congregational Church where she sang in the choir and sat on the flower committee.

But her greatest joy of all was spending time with her granddaughter Rylie. They loved to shop, go out to eat, have sleepovers, eat sweets and watch the cooking channel.

Her family would like to thank Alden Court and the many staff members who provided loving & compassionate care to Sarah.

In accordance with her wishes, she will be cremated and a Celebration of Life held on Friday, January 9th, 2026 at 10:00 am at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church. Rela-

Continued on page 28

Mattapoisett Woman's Club Presentation

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club invites local residents to its **January 15** monthly meeting for a special presentation, "The Magic Is You: Finding Your Creative Voice," by Jenny Martin, the new Director of the Mattapoisett Free Public Library. Join Jenny for an inspiring talk on sharing your gifts and living your best creative life. A librarian for nearly twenty years, Martin is also the author of two novels published by Penguin-Random House. She is an experienced teacher and presenter who has appeared at conferences including TLA and San Diego Comic-Con, and she previously served as Director of Outreach for DFW Writers' Workshop, one of the largest and oldest professional writers' workshops in the Southwest.

Visitors are welcome to attend this presentation which will begin at 11:30am at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church in Reynard Hall. The Mattapoisett Woman's Club is a civic, social, educational and philanthropic organization. Membership is always open to local women who are interested in the objectives and mission of the organization. For more information or questions please contact info@mattapoisettwomansclub.org.

Hello from Plumb Library

Happy New Year everyone, welcome to 2026. January brings with it the restart of our Children's Programming schedule with the return of favorites like Storytime for babies and preschoolers and Book Buds Bookclubs, as well as new additions to the calendar like Teen Advisory Board and Lego Club (announcement upcoming). Details below:

Calling all Teens and Pre-Teens who want to get involved in how the library operates. Do you have input

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tives and friends are invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made in her name to Massachusetts Eye & Ear, 243 Charles Street, Boston, MA 02114 or the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.

Arrangements are with the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett. For online guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.

Frank Charles Robert Viera, 43, of Acushnet passed away unexpectedly at home Saturday, December 27, 2025. He was the beloved son of Frank C. and Mary Ellen (Coutinho) Viera.

Frank was a self-employed small engine mechanic and owned Frank's Small Engine Repair. He was a lifelong resident of Acushnet and a 2000 graduate with Honors from the Agricultural Mechanics program at Bristol County Agricultural High School. He enjoyed working on diesel engines, chainsaws, really, anything with a motor. In recent year's he got into cooking, planning, purchasing and executing day-to-day meals especially using his new smoker and grill to cook. The most recent hobby is fish tanks. Frank loved animals, his dog Koco would go everywhere with him. He had the most generous and kind heart; that is how he ended up with more cats than he really wanted. He never complained and loved each one. He adopted a stray that wandered onto the property; she had babies and kept one. One day he heard meows from the stonewall across the street and rescued four kittens, got three adopted out and one ended up coming back. The only one left now is Little Buddy and she was his little buddy!

Frank also had a quiet compassion for people; if he had not heard from an elderly customer in a while he would call and check on them. He would call his grandmother and ask if she wanted a pizza and would go by and share a pizza with her.

Frank is survived by his loving parents; his sister, Ruby Jean Nadeau and her husband Justin of Dartmouth and their children, Syrina and Madisyn; his paternal grandmother, Joanne Viera of Acushnet; his aunts and uncles, Steven and Cheryl Viera of Acushnet, Glen and Joanne Viera of Wareham, and Susan Donaldson of NV and several cousins. He was the nephew of the late Patrick A. and Tina L. (DeCotis) Viera.

Frank never liked being the center of attention. In lieu of being buried in the back yard with all his animals, a private family service will be held. We encourage you to honor Frank's memory in your own way, share a story, plant a tree, donate to an animal organization or just take a moment and quietly reflect. Arrangements are by the Fairhaven Funeral Home, 117 Main St., Fairhaven. For memorial register please visit, www.hathawayfunerals.com.

Jane M. (Davidson) Moreau, 80, of Mattapoisett, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 30, 2025. She was the beloved wife of the late Michael B. Moreau Sr., with whom she shared 52 years of marriage before his passing in 2019.

Jane was born on February 16, 1945, in Harlingen, Texas, where her father was stationed during World War II. She was the daughter of Herbert W. Davidson Jr. and Helen M. (Tucker) Davidson. Jane lived most of her life in Mattapoisett and was a graduate of Old Rochester Regional High School.

She worked for the family business, Davidson's Meat Products, for 25 years. Following a merger, she continued her career with Luzo Food Service for another 15 years. For the remainder of her working years, Jane was employed at the Bay Club in Mattapoisett, where she worked until her retirement.

Jane loved boating and spent many happy years on the water with her husband Mike, their family, and many friends. She especially enjoyed entertaining family and friends at her home. Jane also had a deep love for music and dancing, which brought her great joy throughout her life.

She is survived by her sons, Michael B. Moreau Jr. and his wife Erin, and their children Hunter, Derek, and Blake, all of Mattapoisett; and Brett D. Moreau and his wife Kellie, and his daughters Rebecca and Gabrielle, also of Mattapoisett. She is also survived by her brother James W. Davidson Sr., his son James ("Jimmy") Davidson Jr. and his wife Kara, and their son Cooper; her brother Andrew Davidson and his wife Debra; as well as many cousins and their families.

In addition to her husband, Jane was predeceased by her sister-in-law, Sheila Davidson, wife of James W. Davidson Sr.

Her Memorial Visitation will be held Monday, January 12, 2026 from 1-4 pm in the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Mattapoisett. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jane's memory may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, P.O. Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394. For directions and guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.

Mary M. Schubert of Mattapoisett, MA died at home on January 1, 2026, surrounded by family.

Daughter of Robert and Natalie McIntosh, Mary grew up in Manchester, CT and graduated from Westbrook Jr. College in Portland, ME. Mary was a strong proponent of an active lifestyle. After cheerleading in high school, she enjoyed tennis, golf, skiing, running, hiking, dancing, and gardening. She was also an avid fan of the Red Sox, Patriots, and UCO-

on what books you'd like to see on the shelves, or what teen programming you want to attend? Join us for our inaugural Teen Advisory Board meeting to discuss our visions and where we hope to take the TAB. Teens ages 12-18 years are invited to join us from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm Tuesday, **January 13** at the Library. Registration is required.

Storytime begins its seven-week winter cycle at 10:30 am Tuesday, **January 20** and 10:30 am Wednesday, **January 21**. The Tuesday sessions are designed for babies 6-24 months and their caregivers, and Wednesday sessions are for families with kids 2-5 years. Come for stories, songs, crafts, and new friends. Registration is required weekly and space is limited.

Book Buds Bookclubs for kids are back. This once per month event is designed for kids and teens in three separate age groups and offers a casual meeting space to talk about what they are currently reading, as well as receiving title and series recommendations. Participants are also encouraged make book recommendations to their peers, as well as suggestions to the Library of books to purchase for the collection. Meetings will be held at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, **January 21** for 8-12-year-olds, 4:30 pm Wednesday, **January 28** for 12-14-year-olds, and 3:00 pm Thursday, **January 29** for 14-18-year-olds. Please register for these events.

More information for all Library events can be found on our Events Calendar via our webpage www.plumblibrary.com. This is also where to register for any Library programs requiring sign ups. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

Other Upcoming Meetings & Events:
Knitting Group 6:30 pm; Mondays**, 12, and 26**.
Board of Library Trustees; 6:00 pm Tuesday**, January 13.**
Writers Group 6:30 pm; Thursday, **January 15**.
COA Group Bookclub 1:00 pm; Tuesday, **January 20** at the Rochester Council on Aging.
Friends of the Library 6:00 pm; Thursday, **January 22**.
Books & Babble Bookclub 6:30 pm; Thursday, **January 29**.
Please note: The Library will be closed Monday, **January 19** for Martin Luther King Jr Day.

Want to stay up-to-date on Library happenings? Sign up for the monthly emailed Newsletter, check out the online Events Calendar, or "like and follow" us on Facebook and Instagram.

Library hours: Monday/Thursday 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; Tuesday/Wednesday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm; Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; closed Sundays and holidays. Contact us: call 508-763-8600 or email at info@plumblibrary.com during regular hours.

Mattapoisett Republican Town Committee

The Mattapoisett Republican Town Committee will hold a public meeting on Thursday, **January 15** from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Neimad Facility, 57 Fairhaven Road, Mattapoisett.

The meeting will address important community concerns. In a friendly atmosphere, we encourage

OBITUARIES

NN athletics.

A valued colleague in the Marketing Department at Pratt & Whitney, Key Productions, and at the Hartford office of Smith Barney, Mary loved learning and was a gifted teacher. She excelled at cooking and entertaining and pursued a Cordon Bleu certificate in New York City while teaching adult education cooking classes, catering, and eventually running her own cooking school in South Windsor, CT. Mary took art and basketry classes in retirement and created many beautiful watercolors and Nantucket baskets.

Mary was deeply engaged in volunteering in all the communities where she resided. Mary helped found the Manchester, CT Junior Women's Club at a time when young women's roles and opportunities were changing rapidly. Mary also contributed her organizational talents to the Wadsworth Atheneum, the Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum, the Mattapoisett Library (where she and her husband Allan conceived the Taste of Mattapoisett event to raise funds for the library expansion), and the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay which she served as President. Mary also served the Garden Club of America (GCA) Scholarship Committee as Vice-President, reviewing, selecting, and mentoring young aspiring gardeners seeking scholarships. In 2016, Mary was awarded a GCA Medal of Merit for her artistic, culinary, horticultural and organizational talents and leadership.

Mary valued family above all. With her beloved husband Allan, who pre-deceased her in 2019, she raised three children. Mary leaves her daughter Molly Bernard and sons Andy and Christopher (Sharon) Schubert, three grandchildren, Nina Banks (Ray), Tom Schubert (Emily) and Joey Schubert, and her great-grandson Roman Banks. Mary leaves her sister Margaret McIntosh and was pre-deceased by her siblings Robert McIntosh and Ann Mello.

A memorial will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 12 Noon – 2:00 pm at the Saunders-Dwyer Funeral Home, 50 County Rd., Mattapoisett, MA.

Memorial donations may be made to "N.F.S. fbo The Joseph P. Schubert Special Needs Trust" and sent via Barnum Financial Group, 200 Crossings Boulevard, Suite 200, Warwick, RI 02886. For online guestbook, please visit www.saundersdwyer.com

If you have a notice you would like to have included in the Obituaries section, please contact our office at: 508 758-9055, or by email at office@wanderer.com.

Movie Review

Paddle Up

By Rob Gonsalves
www.robsmovievault.com

***Marty Supreme*. Starring Timothée Chalamet and Gwyneth Paltrow. Directed by Josh Safdie. Running time: 150 minutes. MPAA rating: R. Now playing in theaters.**

Josh Safdie's *Marty Supreme* is an acclaimed but underwhelming portrait of Marty Mauser (Timothée Chalamet), a shoe salesman and hungry table-tennis up-and-comer. It reminds me a bit of *Boogie Nights,* which had epic length without matching depth. *Marty Supreme* is an art object hoping to put a small but talented hustler at the center of a big movie, with lots of extras and top-drawer production design (by Jack Fisk) and the biggest piggybank yet for its indie distributor A24 ($70 million). It must be quite the exhilarating rocket if you take the ride, but I found myself falling by the wayside early on and never reboarding.

Why? I felt as hustled as Marty's various marks must feel; Safdie never stops agitating on behalf of Marty, pleading his case that he's a worthy subject of a film. He didn't convince me. Chalamet drops all ego and gives us a nerve-driven bull artist, and Safdie keeps the film moving recklessly forward in tandem with Chalamet, at the speed of ambition. *Marty Supreme* is a silverstreak piece of filmmaking; it has a lift and a pulse. But it's an elaborately realized period scaffolding (it begins in 1952 New York and staggers all over the world) without many real people in it, just types. An exception is Abel Ferrara as a vicious mobster with a beloved dog; he's part of the movie's most pointless digression, but he keeps his scenes rooted in his character's scuzzy pragmatism.

His dialogue is as off-period as everyone else's, though. The movie has an antic but anachronistic vibe. For whatever reason, Safdie has chosen to pepper the soundtrack with '80s needle-drops (Tears for Fears, Peter Gabriel, etc.), with a synth-heavy score by Daniel Lopatin that evokes '80s movie scores. The result is not only that I felt these people didn't belong in the '50s; I felt they didn't belong anywhere. The great camera faces — the plug-uglies and doll-faced socialites — are just decorative, not organic to a time and place. We may feel marooned in an indistinct era, and even though Safdie avoids many tired tropes to the point of the story not having many beats, there are still tried-and-true bits like a pregnant girlfriend (Odessa A'zion) and a past-her-prime starlet (Gwyneth Paltrow).

Safdie sees these women from the outside only, in terms of how they help or hinder Marty. But the men are also sketchily defined. *Marty Supreme* skims along the surface like a speedboat but never stops to drop anchor and just *be* with its characters, observe, imagine. Despite Chalamet's heroic energy level, we never really *know* Marty. The table-tennis sequences have a built-in tension and release, but we may as well be watching volleyball or bowling — we never learn why Marty loves the game, or started playing, or sees it as anything other than a path to fortune and glory. Of course, Martin Scorsese's *Raging Bull* never told us how Jake LaMotta came to become a boxer either, but the early scene where Jake demanded that his brother punch him in the face told us enough: Jake hated himself and was drawn to a sport where he could take a lot of damage legally.

There's nothing anything like that in *Marty Supreme*. Other than an apologetic moment Marty has with a table-tennis higher-up, Marty doesn't seem very self-aware. His consciousness seems fully dialed into the next move, the next hustle, the next round. Neither he nor the movie stops moving long enough to get a consistent reading on them; the film just blurs past us and on down the road. The occasional simple moment, like Paltrow's actress smiling to herself when the audience applauds her first appearance onstage, isn't enough to sustain a medium-long narrative like this. (Especially since Safdie follows it by implying the play she's in is killed by opening-night pans.) A generous running time is supposed to afford the filmmakers luxury to drill down into their characters, not let out the leash so the film can wander and sniff around. I was never persuaded that I wanted to go where the movie was hurrying me off to, which turns out to be the message that babies are awesome and the best thing a woman and a man can aspire to. Well, at least *that's* true to the '50s.

community members to join the discussion, share perspectives and to learn more about the vital issues that shape our future. Get involved with nominating and supporting upcoming seats for Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. House of Representatives, and others. Let's start off 2026 strong. 6:00 pm - Light snacks and cash bar, 6:30 pm - General Meeting and discussion.

Please visit Facebook.com/MattapoisettGOP for information on our scheduled monthly speaker.

Lamb of God Christian Church

The Lamb of God Christian Church of Mattapoisett will be presenting the following events in January: Adult Bible Study every Sunday at 6:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 3 Depot Street. Free Food Outreach, **January 18** from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the American Legion Hall. Children's "Bible Story Time" for children, parents, and care givers of children, **January 27** at 10:00am held at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, in the lower meeting room. For more information call 508-998-6990, or E-Mail: pastor@lambofgodma.org.

Upcoming Events at the Elizabeth Taber Library

The first meeting of our kids creative writing club is Monday, **January 12**. Kids grades 1-6 are invited to join us to learn more about writing and practice their library skills. The club meets the second and fourth Monday of the month. Register online.

The Library is partnering with the Marion Art Center to offer a three-week course on Exploring Picture Book Illustrations for adults. The class meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, starting on Tuesday, **January 13**. Learn more and register online marionartcenter.org

The Library is excited to bring Rickrack the Clown to the Library as a Red Nose Reader on Saturday, **January 17** at 11 am. Listen to a story and watch Rickrack put on her clown makeup. This program is for kids of all ages - no registration required.

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Tri-town Police Logs

MARION
Log highlights Dec 28 – Jan 3
- Front St – Wildlife services
- Point Rd – MV collision
- Grassi Bogs – Animal complaint
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Piney Point Rd – Burglar alarm
- Water St – Officer wanted
- Water St – Waterways complaint
- Front St – Parking enforcement
- Field Stone Ln – Suspicious activity
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – General service
- Briggs Ln – EMS/medical
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Hiller St – MV stop/written warning
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Island Ct – Burglar alarm
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Washburn Park Rd – EMS/medical
- Howland Rd – EMS/medical
- East Ave – General service
- Olde Knoll Rd – EMS/medical
- Mill St – Suspicious MV
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Spring St – MV collision
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Spring St – MV collision
- Pitcher St – Wildlife services
- Front St – EMS/medical
- Front St – Suspicious MV

MATTAPOISETT
Log highlights Dec 28 – Jan 3
- Water St - Disturbance
- Acushnet Rd – MV violations
- Avenue B – Animal control
- Centre Dr – Health/welfare
- County Rd – MV crash
- Wolf Island Rd – MV crash
- Field St – Summons service
- Fairhaven Rd – Restraining order
- Brook Trout Ln – Health/welfare
- Mechanic St - Complaint
- North St – Parking complaint
- Cove St – Medical assist
- Holly Wooods Rd – House check
- Highland View Ave – General service
- Bay View MS Ave – Medical assist
- Randall Rd – MV violations
- North Ave – MV lockout
- Fairhaven Rd – General service
- County Rd – No trespass order
- Driscoll Ln – Medical assist
- Field St – Larceny/forgery/fraud
- Church St – Suspicious persons
- River Rd – MV crash
- Main St – Health/welfare
- Linhares Ave – 911 call
- Whitetail Run – 911 call
- Eldorado Dr – MV violations
- Industrial Dr – MV crash
- Brandt Island Rd – MV crash

ROCHESTER
Log highlights Dec 28 – Jan 3
- Sarabeth Ln – Detector issue
- New Bedford Rd – Animal control
- Marion Rd - Medical
- Paradise Ln – Message delivery
- Williams Way – Carbon monoxide
- Cranberry Hwy – 911 call
- Cranberry Hwy – MV collision
- Walnut Plain Rd – MV collision
- North Ave – Animal control
- Nathaniels Dr – 911 call
- New Bedford Rd – Assist other agency
- Dexter Ln – General service
- Walnut Plain Rd – Noise complaint
- Woodland Rd – General services
- Walnut Plain Rd – MV collision
- County Rd - MV collision
- North Ave – Noise complaint
- Kings Hwy – Noise complaint
- Marys Pond Rd – MV collision
- Perrys Ln – MV collision
- Cranberry Hwy - Assault
- Snows Pond Rd – General services
- Cranberry Hwy – Follow up
- Cushman Rd – Lost animal
- Marys Pond Rd – MV stop
- Walnut Plain Rd – MV collision
- Cranberry Hwy – Follow up
- Walnut Plain Rd – MV stop/verbal
- Marion Rd – MV stop/written warning

For a full PDF of the three towns' police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.

Regional Lunch Menus

COASTLINE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM
Monday, Jan 12: Beef hot dog, baked beans, corn, wheat hot dog bun, orange, ketchup
Tuesday, Jan 13: Cheese ravioli w/turkey bolognese & parmesan cheese, brussels sprouts, wheat bread, vanilla pudding, diet: fruit
Wednesday, Jan 14: Salmon w/ dill sauce, rice pilaf, Cali blend vegetables, wheat roll, pear cup
Thursday, Jan 15: Pot roast w/ gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, vegetable medley, whole grain cornbread loaf, banana
Friday, Jan 16: Roasted chicken thigh, mac & cheese, collard greens, wheat roll, pound cake, diet: fruit

CENTER SCHOOL
Monday, Jan 12: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries
Tuesday, Jan 13: Tyson popcorn chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, savory gravy, golden corn, whole grain dinner roll
Wednesday, Jan 14: Whole grain French toast sticks, cheese stick, Jones low salt sausage links, maple syrup, tater tots
Thursday, Jan 15: Creamy mac & cheese, steamed carrots, applesauce cup
Friday, Jan 16: Cheese pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

OLD HAMMONDTOWN
Monday, Jan 12: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries
Tuesday, Jan 13: Tyson popcorn chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, savory gravy, golden corn, whole grain dinner roll
Wednesday, Jan 14: Whole grain French toast sticks, cheese stick, Jones low salt sausage links, maple syrup, tater tots
Thursday, Jan 15: Creamy mac & cheese, steamed carrots, applesauce cup
Friday, Jan 16: Cheese pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH
Monday, Jan 12: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries
Tuesday, Jan 13: Tyson popcorn chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, savory gravy, golden corn, whole grain dinner roll
Wednesday, Jan 14: Whole grain French toast sticks, cheese stick, Jones low salt sausage links, maple syrup, tater tots
Thursday, Jan 15: Creamy mac & cheese, steamed carrots, applesauce cup
Friday, Jan 16: Hot buffalo chicken dip served with whole grain tortilla chips, fresh veggie sticks

ROCHESTER MEMORIAL
Monday, Jan 12: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries
Tuesday, Jan 13: Tyson popcorn chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, savory gravy, golden corn, whole grain dinner roll
Wednesday, Jan 14: Whole grain French toast sticks, cheese stick, Jones low salt sausage links, maple syrup, tater tots
Thursday, Jan 15: Creamy mac & cheese, steamed carrots, applesauce cup
Friday, Jan 16: Cheese pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

SIPPICAN SCHOOL
Monday, Jan 12: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries
Tuesday, Jan 13: Tyson popcorn chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, savory gravy, golden corn, whole grain dinner roll
Wednesday, Jan 14: Whole grain French toast sticks, cheese stick, Jones low salt sausage links, maple syrup, tater tots
Thursday, Jan 15: Creamy mac & cheese, steamed carrots, applesauce cup
Friday, Jan 16: Cheese pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

OLD COLONY REGIONAL
Monday, Jan 12: Ramen bowl
Tuesday, Jan 13: Popcorn chicken, fries & steamed carrots
Wednesday, Jan 14: Chicken broccoli alfredo & garlic bread
Thursday, Jan 15: Linguica sandwich, baked beans & fries
Friday, Jan 16: Assorted pizza & Caesar salad

For more information on the Elizabeth Taber Library visit us at www.ElizabethTaberLibrary.org or email the library at ETLibrary@sailsinc.org. 8 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738. 508-748-1252.

From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society

By Connie Eshbach

As this very cold and somewhat snowy spell of weather is due to alleviate, with temperatures expected in the 40's soon, I was thinking about snow removal back in the day. Of course, for quite a long time, most area roads were dirt or gravel rather than paved, so dealing with snow was different and less imperative since many just switched over to horse drawn sleighs like in "Jingle Bells."

The 1871-72 "Report of the Selectman of Rochester on the Financial Affairs of the Town (today's town report) has a short list of men hired to clear snow. The ten men were paid various sums with George Alley ($19.70), Consider Smith ($21.55) and Charles H. Haskins ($12.20) being paid the most. The others were paid anywhere from $3.60-$ 7.60 with the total expenditure of $88.94. In 1893-94, even less money was spent with $32.55 split among 3 men: Richard W. Clark, J. G. B. Sherman and Ira D. Fuller.

By 1906, the reports showed an actual snow account although the money spent was only $57.85 and 32 men were paid out of that sum. Three years later, the snow budget was increased to $464.18. This coincides with mentions of stone roads.

In the 1920's, the town was still paying for teams (horses) that were clearing snow. My favorite reference is Mrs. Annie Hartley paid $138.63 for gravel, lumber, team and auto in 1918. I'm sure Great Grandma's sons were the ones doing the work.

Looking through the 1942 Record of the Town Officers of Rochester, MA (no, I haven't looked through all of them) snow plowing payments are broken up by who did it and their hourly rate. There is also money paid for the welding of snowplow points and for snow fences. The Taking Down and Putting Up of snow fences cost the town $ 182.62. In addition, there were costs associated with the purchasing of fences at $.10 per foot for 130 feet,

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Christmas Tree pick up in Mattapoisett is scheduled for 2 weeks, January 5th through January 16th, 2026.
Christmas trees should be placed Curbside by 7:00AM on your Regularly Scheduled Rubbish Pick-up day. Trees in plastic bags or with ornaments will NOT be picked up.
Trees are also accepted at the Transfer Station on Tinkham Hill Rd.
If you have questions please contact Mattapoisett Highway Dept at 508-758-4181.
Thank you!

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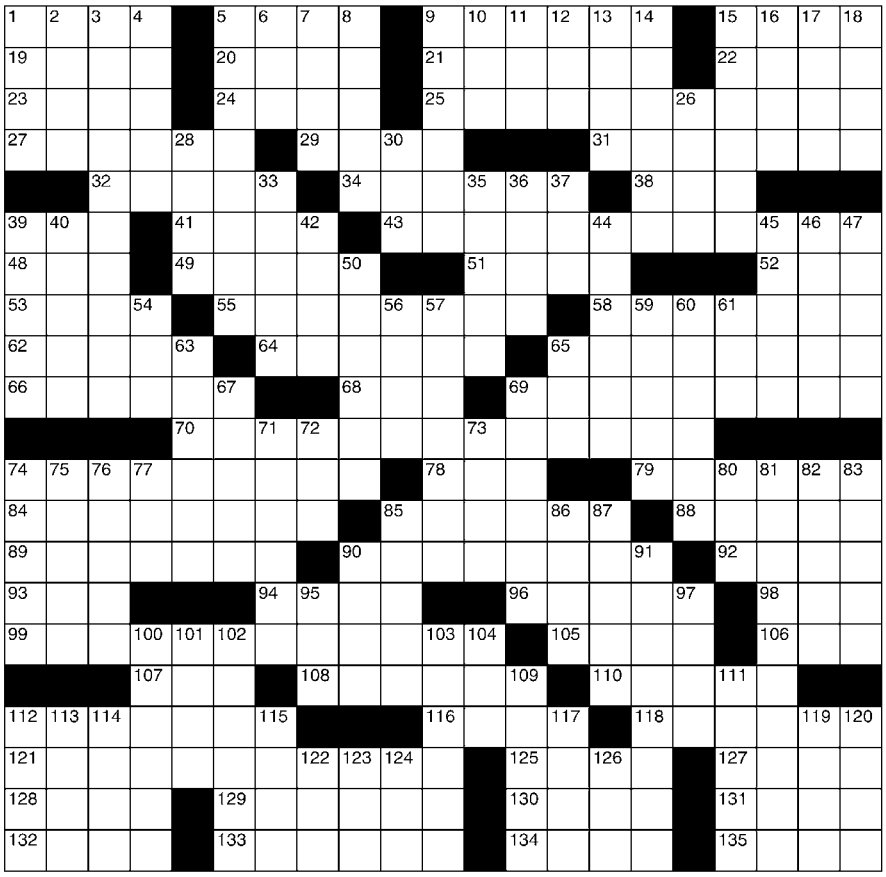
Super Crossword — CORNER TO CORNER

ACROSS

1 Fishhook end
5 Neophyte
9 Negate
15 "Kapow!"
19 "— Ben Adhem" (Leigh Hunt poem)
20 Whole bunch
21 Opposed (to)
22 Nevada city on I-80
23 Mild-flavored lettuce
24 Dawn's direction
25 Common corsage flower
27 2019 buddy-cop action-comedy film
29 Leaning Tower city
31 Co-avenger with Electra
32 Wooden shoe
34 Bestow
38 Feedbag grain
39 Jaguar, e.g.
41 "It's not — deal"
43 Guy who helps people get out of jail
48 Attila the —
49 "I pass," in cards
51 Bic — Stic
52 Add up to
53 March 15, e.g.
55 Emperor before Caligula
58 In the direction of
62 Unsafe
64 Convent VIP
65 Quilt, e.g.
66 Small bouquets
68 Monkey in "Aladdin"
69 Die-hard devotees
70 What this puzzle's solver does when filling in the upper-left to lower-right diagonal?
74 8-11 p.m., TV-wise
78 Exec's deg.
79 Tattle
84 Old Russian revolutionary
85 German for the verb "love"
88 Sheer fabric
89 States of oneness
90 Filename display area
92 Not far at all
93 GQ or Us
94 Send forth
96 Some pinschers, for short
98 Completed
99 Male sibling by birth
105 Asian fusion restaurant chain
106 Taxing org.
107 French body of water
108 Like an ode
110 Marjanovic of the Rockets
112 Memory loss
116 Like eyesores
118 Citigroup alternative
121 Item for surfing on one's stomach
125 Work for
127 Impose — on (forbid)
128 Arm bone
129 Princess Beatrice's mom
130 Ran away
131 1967 Peter Sellers film, with "The"
132 Casual tops
133 Brines, e.g.
134 Lays (down)
135 Spin — (do like Spider-Man)

DOWN

1 Streisand, to friends
2 Slightly
3 Vigorous quality
4 — Gump Shrimp Company
5 Mechanical-looking dance
6 Pro vote
7 Rub roughly
8 Sight-related
9 Beach hut
10 "Selma" director DuVernay
11 Lincoln loc.
12 Boohoo
13 Canadian gas choice
14 NBA star James
15 Twists to pull free
16 Sun output
17 Poker cost
18 Hardness scale inventor
26 Take in a novel, e.g.
28 Abba of Israel
30 Boohoo
33 Leg bone
35 Popular office plant
36 Building wings
37 Hitting stat
39 Bird sound
40 Video's counterpart
42 Last name of the Bee Gees
44 Eight-armed creatures
45 The second Mrs. Trump
46 Actress Eve
47 Bird homes
50 Cheapen
54 Enjoy a slope
56 McEntire of country
57 Lead-in to a proposal
59 Bake-off needs
60 "As if that — enough ..."
61 Pooch sound
63 Aden citizen
65 — -de-sac
67 Composer Erik
69 Ocean floor
71 Mouth or face, slangily
72 Rescue squad VIP
73 Upscale Swiss watch brand
74 — tuckered out
75 Of kidneys
76 "The Princess Bride" character Montoya
77 The Engineers' sch.
80 It's charged
81 Knotted like shoelaces
82 Huxtable mom on TV
83 Goat groups
85 Limber
86 Black, in verse
87 Honcho
90 Mambo king Puente
91 Ricochets
95 Janitorial tool
97 Deli heroes
100 Last Greek letters
101 Actor Arnaz
102 Court filings
103 Pianists' exercises
104 Road semi
109 Staff symbols
111 Addis —, Ethiopia
112 Be up against
113 Yard pest
114 Not any
115 Aid in crime
117 New Haven university
119 Local theater, informally
120 Door handle
122 Iron —
123 Iron —
124 Tear
126 No longer in the mil., e.g.



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SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Careful, Lamb. Don't let your generous nature lead to some serious overspending. Meanwhile, your social life kicks off into high gear by the week's end.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A positive attitude helps you weather annoying but unavoidable changes in plans. Aspects favor new friendships and reinforcement of existing relationships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The demands on your energy levels could be much higher than usual as you get back into routines after the holiday. Be sure to pace yourself. Friends and family will be happy to help.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't allow a suddenly icy reaction from a friend or family member to continue without learning what caused it -- and what can be done to restore this once warm and caring relationship.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A relationship seems to be unraveling, mostly from a lack of attention. It might be a good idea to ease up on whatever else you're doing so that you can spend more time working to mend it.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) New facts emerge that not only help explain the recent rift with a trusted colleague but might also provide a chance to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start in your friendship.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A family member's personal situation is, fortunately, resolved in time for you to get back into your hectic round of holiday preparations. An old friend might bring a new friend into your life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Pace yourself in meeting workplace pressures and demands to avoid winding up with a frayed temper and a Scorpian stinger that lashes out at puzzled kith, kin and colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A financial matter requires close attention. Also, news from a trusted source provides the means to help sort out a long-standing state of confusion and put it into perspective.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a good time to reinforce family ties. Make it a priority to assess and resolve all outstanding problems. Start the new year with a full measure of love.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't be pressured into a so-called solid-gold investment. Wait until all the holiday distractions are officially over. Then take a harder look at it. You might find that the "gold" is starting to flake off.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A former friend might be trying to heal the breach between you by using a mutual friend as an intermediary. Best advice: Keep an open mind despite any lingering bad feelings.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of saying the right thing at the right time. Your friendships are deep and lasting.

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posts, as well as the transport of materials by truck and train.

In his papers, L.C. Humphrey mentions winter snow. He says that in colonial times and for many years later, roads ran along fields that were fenced with hedgerows growing along them. This, in effect, created walls that kept much of the snowfall off the roads. As roads were paved, these were removed and snow piled up on the roads. That was when the town started investing in snow fences.

Humphrey also recalled pre-plow storms when large rollers pulled by horses and oxen would press down the snow wide enough for two sleds or sleighs. The rolled paths were always double wide and had turnouts. With increased automobile ownership and paved roads, "motor driven" snowplows became the standard.

After a series of mild years, it will be interesting to see how 2025-2026 will measure up. Certainly, it will be significantly more than 19444's $792.68.

Rochester Republican Town Committee

The next meeting of the Rochester Republican Town Committee will be at 6:30 pm, on Monday, **January 12**, at the Ponderosa Sportsman Club in Acushnet. You do not have to be a member of RRTC to attend. Bring a friend and stay updated on the area's current events.

Mattapoisett Free Public Library

Kick off 2026 with a visit to the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, located at 7 Barstow Street.

The Friends of the Mattapoisett Library's monthly used Book Sale is on Saturday, **January 10**, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Book donations will be accepted on Thursday, January 8, and Friday, January 9, from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the library's meeting room.

Our Silent Book Club returns on Sunday, **January 11**, at 2:00 pm in the upstairs Reading Rooms. Participants will enjoy delicious treats, tea, and quiet time to read. Relax with friends, acquaintances, and strangers while learning about your next favorite book. The event is for patrons ages 16 and up - no registration required.

Emerging adults 20-and-up are invited to join us for our first Literary Society meeting on Tuesday, **January 13**, at 5:30 pm. Literary Society is a quarterly media mixer for young professionals in Mattapoisett and surrounding communities to discuss books, TV shows, movies, and podcasts, and to hear what other similarly-aged patrons are enjoying - no registration required.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library is scheduled for Wednesday, **January 14**, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. A Zoom link to the meeting is available upon request. If you have any questions, please contact the library at mfpl@sailsinc.org. We can pass along your message to the Friends.

Join Robert Ainsworth at the library on Sunday, **January 18**, at 2:00 pm to hear the story of history's swindlers. From seagoing merchants in the Mediterranean to Charles Ponzi in the 1920s, to Bernie Madoff in the 1990s, and to bitcoin on the internet, people have wanted to get rich quick. They want easy money - the money others sweated to make and had the discipline to save. And they'll stop at nothing to get it. No registration required.

Join our next Board Game Club on Tuesday, **January 20**, at 6:00 pm. This month's pick is "Ticket to

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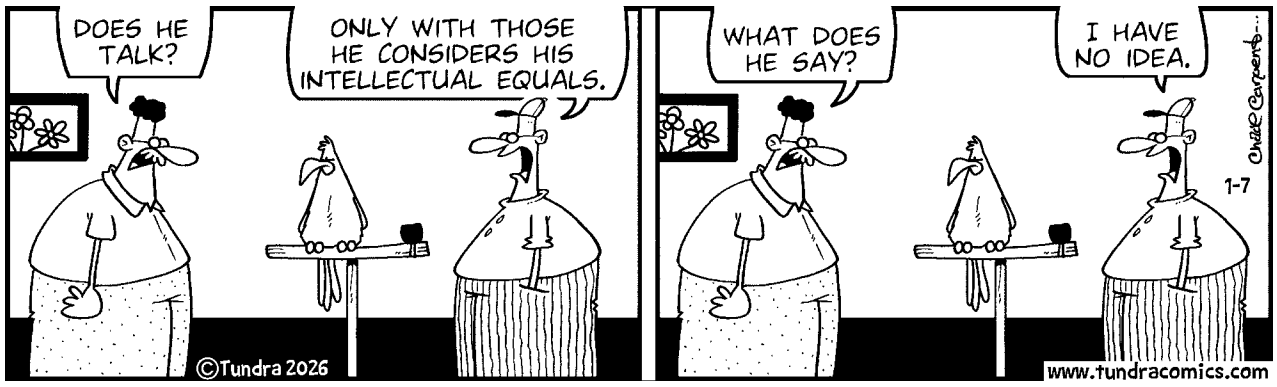
Tundra
by Chad Carpenter



off the mark
by Mark Parisi
MAYBE THE NEW YEAR WILL GIVE ME A NEW PERSPECTIVE
©2026 MARK PARISI DIST BY ANDREWS MCMEEL offthemark.com
NOT WHAT I MEANT
1-4

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

Ride," a turn-based strategy game where players collect various types of train car cards to claim railway routes across North America. Recommended for 2 to 5 players, but teams can be formed to accommodate more players.*If you've never played before, please arrive 15 minutes early to review the rules. Space is limited. Register online to save your spot.

Join Cathy Karp, a former Montessori art schoolteacher, for another Visible Mending workshop* on Saturday, **January 24**, from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Cathy's workshop will introduce patrons to the art of mending textiles. Participants will learn to use embroidery, patching, and darning techniques to create unique, sustainable pieces that give new life to old clothing. Attendees are encouraged to bring a few items they want to mend; all other materials will be provided. This program is recommended for teens through seniors. Space is limited. Registration is required. *The workshop lasts three hours, so bring a light snack or a covered beverage.

The Well-Read Wednesdays Nonfiction Book Group meets on the Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Marine Room. The next meeting is scheduled for **January 28**. We will discuss "Everyone Who Is Gone Is Here: The United States, Central America, and the Making of a Crisis" by Jonathan Blitzer. New members welcome. No registration required.

Please remember that a library card is required at checkout. If your card is missing, we can replace it. To avoid losing it again, download the SAILS mobile app. It's an excellent alternative to carrying your physical library card. Please see a librarian if you need help or have questions. Your privacy is important to us. Let's protect it together.

As always, our programs and events are free and open to everyone. For more information, please visit us at 7 Barstow Street, online at www.mattapoisettlibrary.org, or call the library at 508-758-4171.

Marion Democratic Town Committee

The Marion Democratic Town Committee welcomes all residents to its monthly meeting at 5:30 pm on **January 15**. The committee will meet at the Elizabeth Taber Library, 8 Spring Street. The agenda will cover plans for the coming year. We also will discuss possible questions that concern Marion residents which we will ask Rep. Mark Sylvia, who will be invited to a meeting with the group this spring.

Peter Hodges Memorial Scholarship

The Mattapoisett Lions Club, a member of Lions International, the world's largest service club organization consisting of 46,000 clubs and more than 1,400,000 members worldwide, is pleased to announce the availability of two (2) - $2,000 scholarships to be awarded this year to a graduating high school senior or home-schooled student residing in Mattapoisett, Marion, or Rochester or a school-choice student attending Old Rochester Regional High School. In addition, we are pleased to announce the availability of one (1) $1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior who will be entering the trades and attending an accredited trade school OR tool reimbursement of up to $1,000 with proof of purchase to a graduating senior who will directly be entering the trades with an apprenticeship agreement.

The funds for the Peter Hodges Memorial Scholarship are raised through fundraisers held by the Mattapoisett Lions Club throughout the year, including Harbor Days, an annual Arts and Craft Festival held in Shipyard Park, Mattapoisett every third weekend of July.

The Lions Club motto is "We Serve," one of the largest charitable causes of Lions International includes raising funds for eye research in an effort to end preventable blindness throughout the world, eradicating measles worldwide in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and here at home providing services for those in need in our communities.

To obtain an application, learn more about this award or to learn how to become a member of the Lions

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

There is a 1989 Pointer 17' located at our storage facility on Lake Street in Chatham, MA. The last registered owners are Peter Havel and Lynn Buckley of 66 Holly Road, Marion, MA. Balance due on storage fees are $6008.00. The boat will be accorded "abandoned" status unless immediate remedy is made. 12/25, 1/1, 1/8

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Mattapoisett Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on the following Applications and Petitions. ALL meetings are held in the Mattapoisett Town Hall Conference room, 16 Main Street (unless otherwise noted). New meeting format: the start time is 6:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall Conference Room on Thursday, January 15, 2026

CONTINUATION OF CASE #1579 Petition of Water Street Property Management, LLC. RE: 6 Water Street, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. The property is further described as Plot 9, Lot 182 on the Assessor's Map. It is recorded with the Plymouth Registry of Deeds Book 57453, Page 345. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit to construct a 2-story porch addition along the westerly side of the building. The 1st floor will have a 7'x18.67' enclosed porch with a 7'x4' landing on the north side. The 2nd floor will be 7'x27 and will be constructed over the new landing and the existing brick porch/steps (located to the south). The roof will have a 12' overhang.

CASE #1580 Petition of Michael J. & Tiffany M. Amaral - 3 Harbor Road Neck, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. RE: 3 Harbor Road Neck, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. The property is further described as Plot 12, Lot 196 on the Assessor's Map. The lot is in Zoning District W30. It is recorded in the Plymouth Registry of Deeds Book 46132, Page 23. The applicant is seeking a Variance, as provided by Use of and at variance with district requirements, as stated in Section 5.1.5.4.3.2 of the By-Law, and as provided by Section 7.2.3. The applicant proposes to construct a 24x36 Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) within 10 feet of the side property line and 23.6 ft from the street setback.

CASE #1581 Petition of William F. Madden – 11 Melissa Anne Lane, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 RE: 11 Melissa Anne Lane, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. The property is further described as Plot 20, Lot 7T on the Assessor's Map. The lot is in Zoning District RR80. It is recorded in the Plymouth Registry of Deeds Book 56289, Page 38. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit as provided by Sections 3.2.2 and 7.2.2 of the By-Law. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit to construct a 26'W x 60'L, four bay detached garage. The proposed building is 1,560 square feet with a 120 square foot overhang in area, 1,680 sq ft in total. The garage is to be located on a 12.67-acre, mostly wooded, parcel, and will be located over 700 feet beyond the layout of Melissa Anne Lane and will not be visible from the street or adjacent dwellings.

CASE #1582 Petition of Leslie E. Maxwell T. Richmond - 4 Parker Street Mattapoisett, MA 02739 RE: 4 Parker Street, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. The property is further described as Plot 17, Lot 139 on the Assessor's Map. The lot is in Zoning District RR45 (Pre 1973 RR15). It is recorded with the Plymouth Registry of Deeds. Book 45603, Page 47. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit as provided by Sections 6.5 of the By-Law and as provided by Section 7.2.2. The applicant proposes to raze and reconstruct a new 24x30 garage with a great room above to service the existing single-family dwelling on a pre-existing lot.

CASE #1583 Petition of Russell W. Chase Jr. & Lynne F. Chase – 7 Ridgewood Road & Sparrow Hill Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. RE: 7 Ridgewood Road & Sparrow Hill Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. The property is further described as Plot17, Lot278 on the Assessor's Map. The lot is in Zoning District RR-45. It is recorded with the Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 4207, Page 31. The applicant is seeking a Variance with district requirements as stated in section 6.5 of By-Law and as provided by Section 7.2.3 and Special Permit as provided by Section 3.1.2.2, 6.2.1, 6.2.2, and 6.5 of By-Law and as provided by Paragraph 7.2.2.2 thru 7.2.2.2.7. The applicant proposes to unmerge the two properties and restore them to their original conditions as of July 1973. A Special Permit is requested for the Sparrow Hill Road lot to be further developed by the construction of a future house attached to the existing garage, in accordance with the requirements of the April 3, 1973 – R-15 zoning district. A variance is requested for the 5.4 ft. rear setback vs. the minimum 30ft requirement.

Complete applications and plans as filed are available for inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk during regular office hours.

Sincerely,
Susan Akin, Chair
Tony Tranfaglia , Colby Rottler, Jordan Rodrigues
1/1, 1/8

Continued on page 40

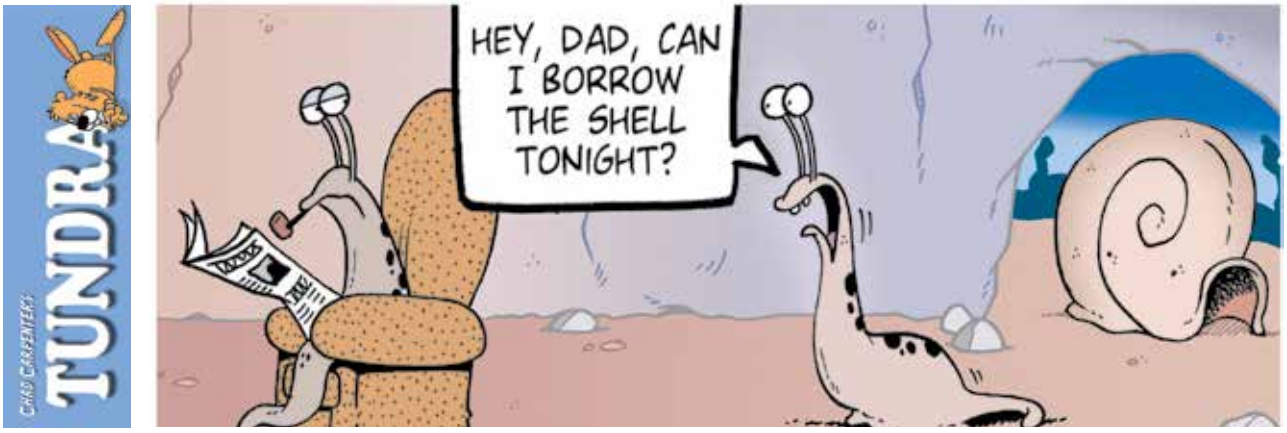
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Don't forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday!

Anne Johnson	January 8
Richie Gilbert	January 8
Liz Hathaway	January 9
Maris Hubbard	January 9
Dalton Pinto	January 10
Tim Watterson	January 11
Amanda Fillio	January 12
Debbie Morrell	January 12
Jeannine Lola Duchaine	January 12
Andrew Duval	January 13
Brendan Burke	January 13
Dean Vincent	January 13
Joe Martin	January 13
Claudin Poyant	January 14
Gabrielle Choquette	January 14
Isabelle Choquette	January 14
Sophie Hubbard	January 14
Steve Wainio	January 14

If you would like *The Wanderer* to announce a birthday for yourself, a friend or family member, please submit your information online to us at www.wanderer.com.

Just Like Cats & Dogs
by Dave T. Phipps
WHY ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT MY FAMILY REUNION? JUST ACT NATURAL, BE YOURSELF AND STICK TO THE CUE CARDS I MADE YOU.



Club, visit our website, www.mattapoisettlionsclub.org. Award applications are also available through the guidance department at your high school.

Applications must be received by **March 28**.

Call for Entries for the Winter Members' Show

The Marion Art Center announces a call for entries for the Winter Members' Show opening **January 10** with a reception from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The show runs through February 6. All members may enter a piece. Works must be original, must have been executed by the artist within the last five years, and must not have been previously shown at the Marion Art Center. The MAC will not exhibit works that are in poor condition (including frame) or are not properly prepared for easy installation.

To exhibit, members should drop off artwork at the MAC at 80 Pleasant Street, Marion, on Saturday, **January 3** between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm or Tuesday, January 6, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Artists may download and print the consignment agreement ahead of time, found online at marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit. Anyone wishing to participate who is not yet a member can join online any time at marionartcenter.org/join. More information can be found at marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit.

Open Table Is Back

Mattapoisett Congregational Church is very excited to announce that Open Table is back with 3 dinners planned for **January 9, February 27,** and **March 13** (weather permitting), so be sure to mark your calendar now. The OT crew hopes to see you on January 9 for the first of 3 delicious meals served in Reynard Hall at Mattapoisett Congregational Church, 27 Church Street, Mattapoisett. There is no charge, although donations are gratefully accepted. Doors open at 4:30 pm and supper will be served at 5:00 pm. Invite a friend or neighbor. All are welcome.

Local Teens Request Warm Weather Donations for Veterans

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) requests your help collecting NEW hats, gloves, and scarves through **January 11**.

TAB recognizes that winter can be especially difficult for veterans, so our members have teamed up with The Veterans Transition House in New Bedford to help. Your donations of NEW hats, gloves, and scarves will offer much-needed warmth and comfort to those who've served our country. Please drop off your contributions in the boxes at the Mattapoisett Library, 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett by January 11.

Prime Rib, Italian Cuisine, Pizza, Party Platters & more..

Reopening January 13th.
Join us in the dining room or give us a call for takeout.

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Weekly and Daily Specials on Social Media

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Lawrence, Adult Services Librarian, at ALawrence@sailsinc.org or call the library at 508-758-4171.

Thank you for your support and compassion for our veterans. The Teen Advisory Board and The Veterans Transition House truly appreciate your kindness.

MWC Great Decisions Discussion Group

Do you have plans on Wednesday afternoons this winter? Get out of the house and join a thoughtful group of tri-town residents who seek to learn more about the world we live in. The Mattapoisett Woman's Club is offering the Great Decisions Program, a weekly

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
SELECT BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held upon the petition of NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a Eversource Energy request permission to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways: CRYSTAL SPRINGS RD.

Install FO Pole #49/19.75 approximately 115" (feet) away from Pole 49/20 towards DG Access Road in the Right of Way of Crystal Springs Rd.

Wherefore, after due notice and hearing as provided by law, they be granted locations for permission to erect and maintain poles, wires, and cables, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as they may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked Plan No 14743380.

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground cables, conduits, wires and necessary equipment in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with the poles and buildings as each may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioners agree to reserve space for one crossarm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

The hearing will be held in the first floor Conference Room on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 6:40 p.m. The Board meeting is also available via ZOOM. Sign on information is on the Town website.
R. Tyler Macallister, Jodi L. Bauer, Jordan C. Collyer 1/1, 1/8

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Rochester Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Rochester Town Hall Conference Room regarding a Definitive Subdivision Plan filed by Richard J. Charon, P.E. and depicted on a plan entitled, "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land prepared for Alfred M. & Rebecca Guaraldo", dated November 3, 2025 for property located at 314 Neck Road, Rochester, MA 02770 designated as Lot 28G on Assessor's Map 26. The applicant's proposed plan is intended to create a second house lot from the existing 5.25-acre parcel.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road, during normal business hours.
Arnold Johnson, Chairman 1/8, 1/15

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
SELECT BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Select Board will hold a public hearing on January 13, 2026 at 6:45 pm, both in person in the Town Hall Conference Room at 16 Main Street, and via Zoom, regarding the adoption of a changes to the Waterfront Management Plan. The proposed changes are available for review on the Town of Mattapoisett Webpage www.mattapoisett.gov and copies are available at the Office of the Mattapoisett Select Board, 16 Main Street, Mattapoisett, MA. 02739 between the hours of 8am and 4pm Monday thru Friday.

Persons interested in providing input should attend the Public Hearing on January 13, 2026, at which time they may ask questions and give oral comments or submit written comments to the Select Board. 1/8

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Clean outs, dump runs, demolition, interior/exterior, dump truck service, pressure washing, & more. Insured **774-762-0016**

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Classified Policy: All Classified Advertisements must be prepaid and can be placed at our office or on line at www.wanderer.com.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 10:00 am for Thursday's paper.

Classified Rates:
Classified Advertisements are $8.00 for 3 lines or less per week. Each additional line is $1.00 per week. There are an average of six words per line. Bold is an addition $1 per week.

Classified Guidelines:
*As a general rule, there are approximately six words per line in a standard Classified Ad.
*Blank lines cannot be used in Classified Advertisements.
*There is only upper case and lower case lettering.
*No graphics may be used in Classified Advertisements.
*Classified Ads cannot be placed on hold.
*Classified Ads cannot be taken over the phone.

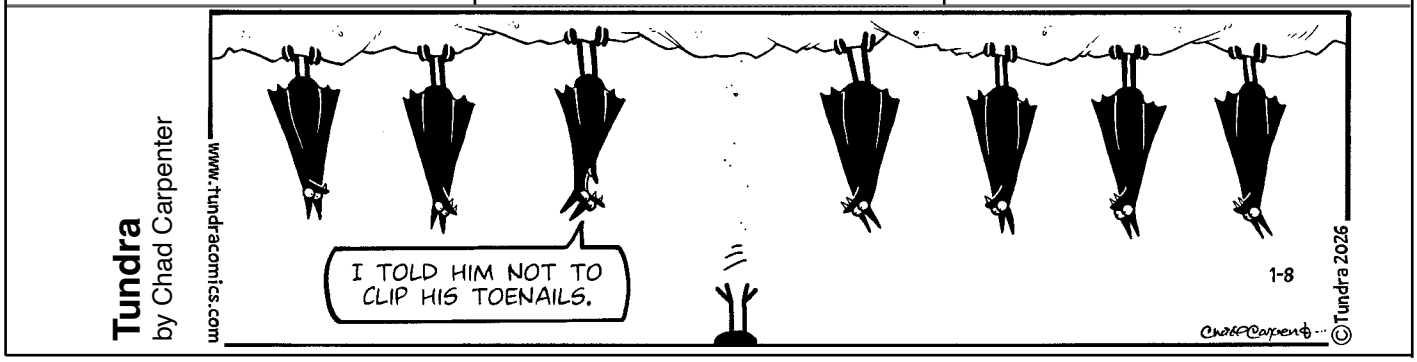
Mailing Classified Ads: Ads can be mailed with payment to P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Placing Classified Ads On-line: Ads can be placed on line at: www.wanderer.com

Dropping Off Classified Advertisements: Ads can be dropped by our office at 55 County Road in Mattapoisett, Monday, Thurs, Fri -9am to 3pm; Tuesday 9am to noon

Payment Policy: All sales final, we do not offer credits or refunds.

Legal Advertisements:
* Legal Ads are $1.00 per line, at a minimum of $25. per ad.



in-person gathering where local residents meet to discuss foreign policy topics in an informal atmosphere. Moderators take turns launching the discussion which often includes guest speakers or videos to kick it off. Topic materials are provided in advance by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. The conversation is friendly and welcoming of all perspectives. We offer light refreshments, coffee and tea. You don't have to be a foreign policy expert to participate–just someone who wants to become an informed global citizen.

Great Decisions meets Wednesdays from **January 14** through **March 4** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the downstairs Community Room at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow Street.

Registration is limited to 30 people and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This program is open to all members of the Mattapoisett community and surrounding towns.

To register please submit your information using the following link: forms.gle/836hn9gX8m6wKyLu9 and send a check made out to the Mattapoisett Woman's Club for $40.00 to cover text and expenses. If two registrants are sharing one book the price is $50.00. If you prefer to mail in your registration, please include your name, address, email address and phone number on a piece of paper and include it with your check and mail it to: Mattapoisett Woman's Club, Box 1444 Mattapoisett MA 02739, Attn: Treasurer (memo on check Great Decisions).

If you have any questions, please email: mfpl@sailsinc.org.

Showstoppers Performance Troupe Seeking Local Talent

The Showstoppers community-service singing troupe is seeking talented youth for its 24th season. Boys and girls in grades 2 to 12 with singing ability are encouraged to apply.

Candidates are asked to submit 2 audition videos, one ballad and one upbeat song, for review. Call backs will be in person by appointment. Submissions do not need to be professionally done and can be recordings of solos in previous school productions. We are looking for kids with great potential.

Successful candidates will rehearse one day per week for 1 1/2 to 2 hours and will have the opportunity to perform with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra in December. They will also make an impact on their community by providing musical entertainment to the elderly at nursing homes, senior centers, and assisted living facilities throughout the Southcoast. The troupe also performs for the community at-large through a variety of private and public venues, including fairs, festivals, schools, malls, charitable fundraisers and other civic events.

Videos and/or video links should be sent to ShowstoppersME@gmail.com. Email for more information or call 508-758-4525.

Showstoppers Musical Entertainment is a subsidiary of Showstoppers Performing Arts, Inc., an all-volunteer non-profit organization. Follow them on Facebook to keep updated on their activities: www.facebook.com/showstopppers.us.

South Coast Chamber Music Series

The South Coast Chamber Music Series offers a Place to Pause. When life moves too fast and the world feels loud, we all need a place to pause. The South Coast Chamber Music Series returns this fall with five weekends of transformative musical storytelling designed to help you slow down, breathe deeper, and reconnect - with yourself, with others, and with the beauty around you.

From soulful string quartets to joyful piano quintets, this season invites you on a journey through soundscapes that stir the spirit and quiet the mind. Whether you're seeking inspiration, healing, or just a moment to exhale, there's space for you here.

Under the inspired direction of pianist and Artistic Director Janice Weber, the 2025-2026 season is a vibrant mix of the familiar and the unexpected - featuring beloved classics, boundary-pushing works by contemporary composers, and rare gems that surprise and delight.

Five unforgettable concerts. One intention: to leave you changed.

Winter Fire - **January 31** and **February 1**: Melt the midwinter chill with fiery string quartets and Mendelssohn's soaring piano trio. Music to spark your spirit.

Story Time - **March 28** and **March 29**: Let every note tell a tale. From Appalachian traditions to Middle Eastern laments, these works bring global stories to your ears - and your heart.

Foursomes - **May 2** and **May 3**: Four voices. Infinite emotion. This season finale delivers serenity and storm alike, with music by Brahms, Roustom, and more.

Concerts take place Saturdays at 3:00 pm at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Marion and Sundays at 3:00 pm at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in South Dartmouth.

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MARION OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
Nice room at Old Landing Condominiums. Professional space. Shared BR, waiting area. Utilities included except internet. Approx. 10X12. Call Dr Crabbe (508)245-4518.

MASON offers Quality Work at Reasonable Prices
Chimneys, Steps, Walkways, Stonewalls, Stone Veneers, etc. New or Restoration.
Chimney Cleaning
Local. Joe Fleurent 508-858-9875

MASSTREESERVICE.COM
Pruning & removal. Aerial bucket truck service. Insured, references & free estimates
508-972-1143

Mattapoisett Laundromat
WASH/DRY/FOLD SERVICE
82 County Road

MELINDA EATON
DRAPERY WORKROOM
custom home interiors
blinds, shades, drapes, shutters, cushions
508-758-9404 or email melindaeatondrapery@gmail.com
www.eatondrapery.com

SNOW REMOVAL
Residential/Commercial
Call now to be added to the list!
(508) 742-8448

MICHELLE GORDON PIANO STUDIO
Creative - Fun - Challenging - Inspiring
Experienced, Qualified Teacher
For students of all ages
508-758-3158 mgordonpiano@gmail.com

MIKE'S APPLIANCE - Sales and Service - Experienced with all brands. Also available evenings, weekends and holidays.
Call Mike Healy at (508) 748-2557

Old, worn kitchen cabinets?
Consider painting them instead of replacement! Call me to see how this could be an option for you.
508-728-4386

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Perkins Quality Construction
General Contractor-Additions & Remodeling
Windows-Siding-Trim-Decks-Repairs
Fully Licensed & Insured - Call Andy
Marion MA 774-929-0008
Email: Andy@perkinsconstructionma.com

Property for Rent-Great for Contractors or Boat Storage!

Just under an acre of open land available for rent-perfect if you need a place to park equipment, store tools, keep boats, or just have some extra space.

What it's good for:
*Contractor Equipment
*Trailers & Trucks
*Boat Storage
*General Outdoor Storage

About the property:
*Almost 1 acre of open, flat land
*Easy access for bigger vehicles
*Conveniently located in the Marion Industrial Park Area right off Route 6

If you've been needing extra space, this will be a great fit.

Reach out for more details or pricing!
508-802-2665

---

off the mark by Mark Parisi

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Screen Repair
Windows-Doors-Sliders
508-207-3949

SOUTH COAST TREE REMOVAL
We Cut, Trim & Remove Trees
Fully Insured, Call For Free Estimate.
(508)985-8205

Town of Marion
Employment Opportunity
Administrative Services
The Town of Marion is seeking applicants for a full-time Administrative Assistant position in the Treasurer/Collector Office. Job responsibilities include a variety of duties including but not limited to professional and technical work related to the operations of the Treasurer and Collector's office in the Finance Department, including collecting and posting payments, answering telephone calls, assisting customers at the window and processing incoming mail.
A high degree of flexibility, multi-tasking and effectual decision-making and problem-solving skills are critical to the performance of this job. Ability to deal effectively with the public and to handle and prioritize several required tasks. Familiarity with Tyler Technologies/MUNIS software is preferred.
Pay Rate: Starting at $24.11 per hour but negotiable depending on experience.
Submit resume and letter of interest by close of business, January 16, 2026, to Finance Director Heather O'Brien at hobrien@marionma.gov
The Town of Marion is an equal opportunity employer.

" By the way, when are you going to clean out the _ _ _ _ _ _?"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Chant
DABALL ___ ☐ ___ ☐ ___

New
LOVEN ___ ___ ___ ☐ ___

Ruler
ERGENT ☐ ___ ☐ ___ ___ ___

Collect
GEARTH ☐ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

TODAY'S WORD

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Weekly SUDOKU

		2		5		3	9	8
		9		2		4	7	
	7				4	5	1	
				8	3	9		
1			7		6		5	3
2				1		6	8	7
6		1		3	9		2	4
		3						
		5	4	6	1		3	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Tickets: Individual concerts: $35 (advanced purchase required), Season subscription: $140 for all five concerts (save 20%. Available through October 3).

To reserve your seat and find your moment of stillness, visit nbsymphony.org or call 508-999-6276 ext. 222.

The South Coast Chamber Music Series (SCCMS) was formed to present superior chamber music for the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts. SCCMS held its first subscription series concert on October 20, 2001. Since then, we have performed composers from Bach, Brahms, and Ravel to present-day masters Takemitsu and Piston. Each program presents an engaging array of styles, timbres, and artists in lively acoustic environments in Marion and South Dartmouth. We joined forces with the NBSO in 2014, giving both organizations an opportunity to expand in all directions - more concerts, more musicians, and more music - and are thrilled to connect with our loyal and growing audience.

Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Gosnold Division and Training Ship Patriot State of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps are welcoming new applicants to the training program at Mass. Maritime Academy. Young men and women between the ages of 11 and 17 who may be interested in nautical or military opportunities are encouraged to join.

Scheduled events include an annual Swim Meet, community service, parades, ceremonies, marksmanship training, skills competition weekend at Joint Base Cape Cod and many other activities, as well as annual summer training, nationwide.

Training is conducted on alternating Saturdays between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm at Mass. Maritime Academy. Interested applicants should contact Lt. Cdr. James McLoughlin at 508-759-8606. View us on Facebook at Gosnold Division.

Marion Vaccination Information

The Marion Board of Health would like to let residents know that they still have flu and COVID-19 vaccines available.

If you are in need of in-home vaccination appointments, these are administered through the Marion Community EMS Program.

Please contact Maureen at the Board of Health at 508-748-3530 then press #1 if you are interested in scheduling an appointment for a vaccination.

Mattapoisett Congregational Church

The Mattapoisett Congregational Church's steeple is lit nightly and is a beacon of welcome and comfort to all. The Beacon of Light was started as a way to celebrate and honor loved ones or special occasions. If you would like the steeple to be lit in remembrance of, in celebration of, or in honor of a loved one or blessed event, please call the church office at 508-758-2671 or email mattcongchurch@gmail.com for more information. We welcome and encourage multiple entries each month. This is a special way to celebrate our beautiful steeple, as a Beacon of Light in Mattapoisett, and to financially support our church. Thank you for your donation.

American Legion: Florence Eastman Post #28

All Southcoast Active Service Military, Reservists and Veterans are invited to join the monthly meetings of the American Legion: Florence Eastman Post #28.

(Serving the Tri-Town area of Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and beyond).

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1900 (7:00 pm).

Florence Eastman Post is located at 3 Depot Street, Mattapoisett. Tri-Town Veterans Office: www.mattapoisett.net/tri-town-veterans-office.

Birthday Parties at the MAC

The Marion Art Center's Arts & Crafts instructor Aylin Cetik is offering birthday parties in the MAC Studio. Parties for ages 4 and up will be scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays, with 15 to 20 minutes reserved at the end of the party for a sweet treat. Available times are 10:00 am to 11:30 am or 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Suggested party themes include: mermaids, fairies, outer space, pirates, art and science, or custom. The cost is $275 for

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

A Touch Of Magic Cleaning Services
residential/commercial
call/text Gina
(774)521-2170
Let me do your Holiday Cleaning!

ARBOR TECH SERVICES
Professional Tree Service
Certified Arborist
Tree Removal, Fine Pruning, Cabling,
Tree Care, Planting, Stump Grinding,
Crane Service, Storm Cleanup.
10+ Years of Experience.
Call Raphael at 508-209-1777.

Basement & Crawlspace Specialist
Professional Waterproofing Solutions
Sump Pumps-Interior French Drains-Vapor Barriers-Moisture Control-Crawlspace Cleanouts
Licensed and Insured|Tusted since 2007
Do not pay more than you have to, fix it the right way the first time
Call or Text 774-476-8445
Senior & Military Discount Availiable

Blinstrub's Painting, Finishing & Remodeling
drywall repairs, bathroom remodels,
flooring, decks, pergolas
508-951-5160
blinstrubs@gmail.com

-Brandon's Tree Service & Landscaping-
- Professional Tree Trimming and Removals -
- 50' Bucket Truck, 15+ Years Experience -
- Bobcat Service, Full Landscaping -
-Land Clearing, **Lawn Mowing, Power Washing**-
-Thorough Yard Cleanups, Mulching -
- Stone Walls, Patios - **FULLY INSURED** -
- **Firewood**, Snow Plowing Estimates -
-Work year round-
Call Jeff at 774-992-9626

Caring PCA with lots of experience to care for you or a loved one needs. Can help with personnel care or home care, what ever is needed. Please call.
Tammy 508-951-3091

Depot Road Painting
Interior or Exterior -36 yrs experience
references avaliable call (508) 563-6563

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Done with the tree? We've got it!
Quick hassle-free Christmas tree removal.
No needles, no mess, no stress!
Local, insured, and affordable!
Book your pickup today!
Call Arbor Tech Services!
508-209-1777

Dr. Patricia Gardiner
Christian Counseling Services
Individual, Couples, Family, Trauma
74 County Rd 774-328-6561
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri by appt.

Experienced & reliable CNA
seeks a position as a caregiver, companion or to assist. Will prepare home cooked meals, clean, assist with personal care and medication if needed. Excellent references will be provided. Available any time including nights and weekends. Please call Carol at 929-329-9960

Experienced home & office cleaning.
Affordable, top to bottom cleaning and more!
Free estimates and references
Call Deb 7743271106

FREE Flexsteel 7' couch and matching club chair with ottoman in seafoam green. Available for pickup any day. Call Bill at 508-748-0255.

Interior Painting
Average size room, 2 coats on walls, $300
Excellent Tri-town references!
508-728-4386

ISO LAND IN ROCHESTER for personal build of modest home for one. 2+ acre, private, quiet retreat/flag/back lots ok. 508-525-5835

JR Painting A Legacy
Interior & Exterior
High quality painting
Jefferson 631-377-2078
Instagram @jrpaintingalegacy

KW Powerwash Free Estimates
Book now!
508-997-2892

LeBron Cleaning
Take advantage of our special discounts this month
Regular small $120; med $200; large $250
Book now: 508-840-0484
marcia-cleaner@hotmail.com

The *Wanderer*

The Wanderer *is an independently owned and published weekly newspaper that is distributed to the public free of charge throughout Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and the surrounding communities.*

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 102
Mattapoisett, MA 02739
Office:
55 County Road (Route 6) Mattapoisett

Telephone: 508-758-9055

Web Page: www.wanderer.com
E-mail:
General/Advertising:
office@wanderer.com
News: news@wanderer.com

Deadlines:
(Display Ads) Friday at 3pm
(News) Monday at noon
(All Others) Tuesday at 10am
Office Hours:
Mon., Thur. & Fri. 9am-3pm
Tues. 9am - 12 noon

Staff:
Paul R. Lopes, Editor
Sam Bishop, News Editor
Sharon Costello, Office Manager
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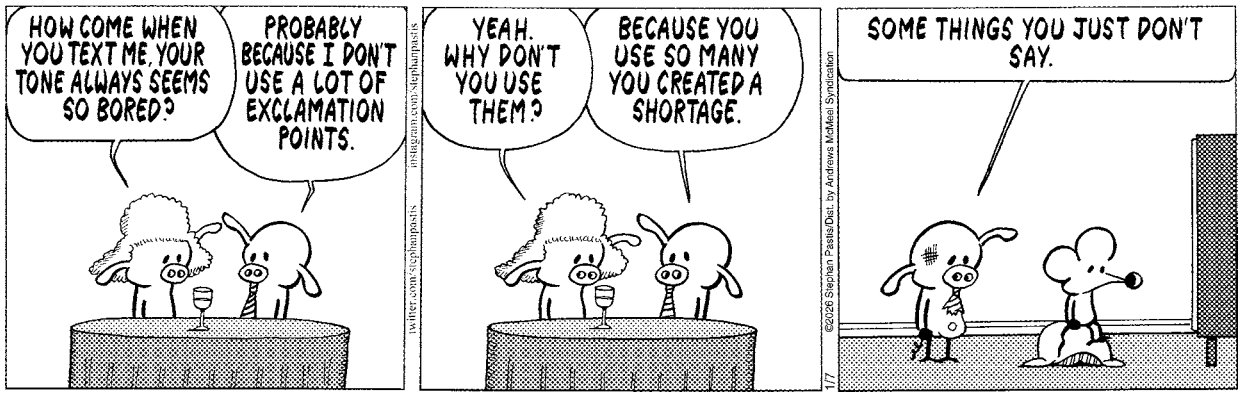
ISSN 1559-1212

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis


HOW COME WHEN YOU TEXT ME, YOUR TONE ALWAYS SEEMS SO BORED?
PROBABLY BECAUSE I DON'T USE A LOT OF EXCLAMATION POINTS.
YEAH. WHY DON'T YOU USE THEM?
BECAUSE YOU USE SO MANY YOU CREATED A SHORTAGE.
SOME THINGS YOU JUST DON'T SAY.
twitter.com/stephanpastis
instagram.com/stephanpastis
©2026 Stephan Pastis/Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
1/7

up to ten guests and $15 for each additional child with a maximum of 15 children. Add-on options include outdoor lawn games or other activities by request, for an additional fee. For more information and to inquire about dates, email aylincetik@gmail.com.

Marion Natural History Museum

Attention Pre-Schoolers and Home Schoolers, the Marion Natural History Museum is now open to the public on Friday mornings. The museum features collections of minerals, fossils, butterflies, birds of prey, and many other specimens. Appointments may be made for field trips. If you would like to schedule a time to come in and view these specimens as part of a lesson or just for fun, please contact the director for an appointment. We are open on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Fridays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Emergency Preparedness

This is the perfect time to think about and prepare for emergencies and disasters as Massachusetts faces a variety of hazards - weather-related or otherwise throughout the year.

If you feel that you would require assistance in an emergency, we would like to have a discussion with you so we can prepare a plan that will be ready to go when needed. If you rely on medical equipment at your residence that requires electricity. If you would require transportation to a shelter when such a need arises or live in a known flood zone. If you have a communication-related disability, we need to know the best way to communicate in an emergency state. If you take medications, we need a list.

If there is any other targeted assistance that you may need.

Please call the Council on Aging at 508-748-3570

so we can compile this information which will be reported to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We want to be prepared.

We encourage residents and family members who may reside out of town to sign up for E-alerts from the Town of Marion (visit: marionma.gov/subscribe).

Tri-Town Against Racism

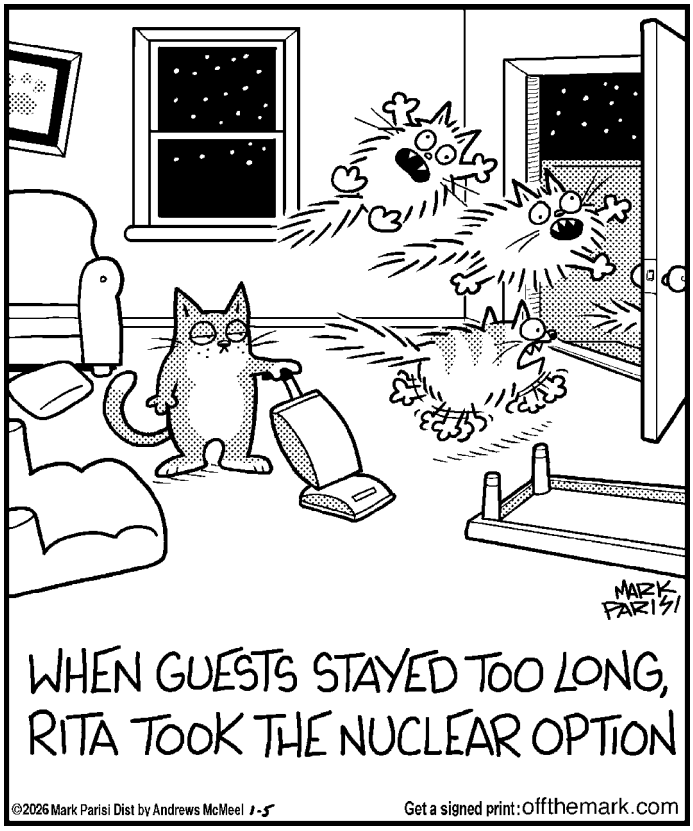
Tri-Town against Racism (TTAR) announces they have developed a system to document discriminatory incidents experienced by community members in the Tri-Town. Collecting this information will help to identify how to best support the Tri-Town Region. The incident report can be completed online, either on a computer or mobile device, anonymously if preferred. Community members can also choose to identify themselves to TTAR in the report. Their personal identifying information will never be shared outside of TTAR. The incident report allows for individuals or families to share their stories to inform local change. Completing the form and sharing your experiences with TTAR will help to make a positive impact. The incident report can be found by visiting this link: forms.gle/UGEsEmjBCZTEYKX56.

Real Estate Transactions

See past listing on our website: www.wanderer.com

Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Address	City	Date	Price
Henshaw, Susan M TR Barbara A Bowman IT	Henshaw, Susan M Bowman, Barbara A Est	North St Lot C	Mattapoisett	12/19/2025	3,000.00
Jacobi, Heidrun	Kneebone, Robb W Mccarron, Kerry E	7 Mattakiset Rd	Mattapoisett	12/19/2025	1,150,000.00
Gabriel, Kathleen Reidy	Stickney, Jill D TR Kenneth W Stickney F T	47 Fairhaven Rd	Mattapoisett	12/19/2025	450,000.00
Twombly, Meredith Crowley, Michael	Cannell, Joanella TR Gibbons, Ella M Est	7 Pearl St	Mattapoisett	12/19/2025	700,000.00
Crimson Farms LLC	Blevins, Megan A	37 Sarah Sherman Rd	Rochester	12/22/2025	400,000.00
	Washburn, Patrick K Washburn, Christopher W	18 Boxberry Way	Marion	12/22/2025	225,000.00
Potential Properties LLC	Cheney, David J	0 Delano Rd	Marion	12/23/2025	200,000.00
Goguen Properties LLC	Rebello, Bethany A Archer, Barbara Ann Est	714 Snipatuit Rd	Rochester	12/23/2025	950,000.00

off the mark by Mark Parisi


WHEN GUESTS STAYED TOO LONG, RITA TOOK THE NUCLEAR OPTION
MARK PARISI
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Local Tides

Day	Date	High a.m.	High p.m.	Low a.m.	Low p.m.
Thursday	January 8	11:38		4:46	5:12
Friday	January 9	12:10	12:27	5:38	5:52
Saturday	January 10	1:01	1:16	6:43	6:39
Sunday	January 11	1:52	2:06	8:08	7:34
Monday	January 12	2:45	3:02	9:21	8:34
Tuesday	January 13	3:45	4:04	10:15	9:32
Wednesday	January 14	4:44	5:02	10:59	10:25
Thursday	January 15	5:34	5:49	11:41	11:13
Friday	January 16	6:16	6:30		12:23
Saturday	January 17	6:53	7:08		1:04
Sunday	January 18	7:29	7:46	12:42	1:43
Monday	January 19	8:04	8:24	1:25	2:18
Tuesday	January 20	8:41	9:04	2:06	2:49
Wednesday	January 21	9:21	9:46	2:46	3:18
Thursday	January 22	10:03	10:30	3:25	3:49
Friday	January 23	10:50	11:19	4:06	4:24
Saturday	January 24	11:41		4:52	5:04
Sunday	January 25	12:11	12:36	5:48	5:53

Phases of the Moon		
	Last Quarter	January 10th
	New Moon	January 18th
	First Quarter	January 26th
	Full Moon	February 1st

I Found the Aardvark!

Each week, hidden somewhere in the pages of *The Wanderer* is a tiny drawing of an aardvark. The little guy you are looking for looks exactly like the one pictured above (but don't put down this page as your answer, there's another one hidden somewhere in this issue).

Once you find the aardvark you can submit your answer on line and if you are right you will get Aardvark Points! You can then use these points to get cool Aardvark Prizes!

To enter visit: www.wanderer.com and Click on ***I Found the Aardvark***

In the January 1, 2026 edition the Aardvark was on page 38

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

B	A	R	B	■	T	Y	R	O	■	C	A	N	C	E	L	■	W	H	A	M
A	B	O	U	■	H	E	A	P	■	A	V	E	R	S	E	■	R	E	N	O
B	I	B	B	■	E	A	S	T	■	B	A	B	Y	S	B	R	E	A	T	H
S	T	U	B	E	R	■	P	I	S	A	■	■	■	O	R	E	S	T	E	S
■	■	S	A	B	O	T	■	C	O	N	F	E	R	■	O	A	T	■	■	■
C	A	T	■	A	B	I	G	■	B	A	I	L	B	O	N	D	S	M	A	N
H	U	N	■	N	O	B	I	D	■	■	C	L	I	C	■	■	■	A	R	E
I	D	E	S	■	T	I	B	E	R	I	U	S	■	T	O	W	A	R	D	S
R	I	S	K	Y	■	A	B	B	E	S	S	■	C	O	V	E	R	L	E	T
P	O	S	I	E	S	■	■	A	B	U	■	S	U	P	E	R	F	A	N	S
■	■	■	■	M	A	K	E	S	A	B	E	E	L	I	N	E	■	■	■	■
P	R	I	M	E	T	I	M	E	■	M	B	A	■	■	S	N	I	T	C	H
L	E	N	I	N	I	S	T	■	L	I	E	B	E	N	■	T	O	I	L	E
U	N	I	T	!	E	S	■	T	I	T	L	E	B	A	R	■	N	E	A	R
M	A	G	■	■	■	E	M	I	T	■	■	D	O	B	E	S	■	D	I	D
B	L	O	O	D	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	■	N	O	B	U	■	I	R	S
■	■	■	M	E	R	■	P	O	E	T	I	C	■	B	O	B	A	N	■	■
A	M	N	E	S	I	A	■	■	■	U	G	L	Y	■	U	S	B	A	N	K
B	O	O	G	!	E	B	O	A	R	D	■	E	A	R	N	■	A	B	A	N
U	L	N	A	■	F	E	R	G	I	E	■	F	L	E	D	■	B	O	B	O
T	E	E	S	■	S	T	E	E	P	S	■	S	E	T	S	■	A	W	E	B

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Ballad; 2. Novel;
3. Regent; 4. Gather

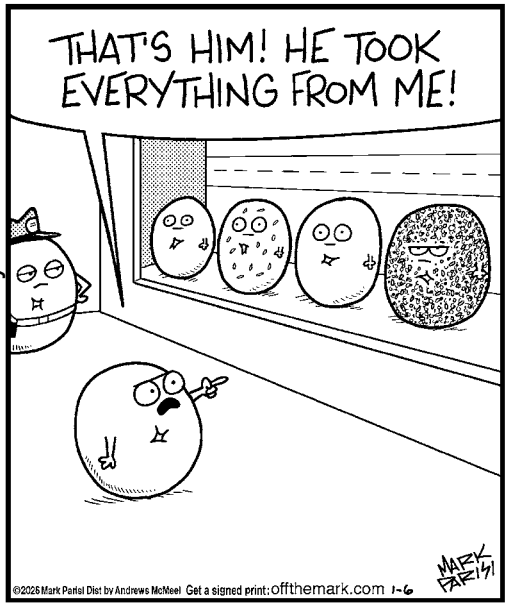
Today's Word

GARAGE

Sudoku Answer

4	1	2	6	5	7	3	9	8
3	5	9	1	2	8	4	7	6
8	7	6	3	9	4	5	1	2
5	6	7	2	8	3	9	4	1
1	9	8	7	4	6	2	5	3
2	3	4	9	1	5	6	8	7
6	8	1	5	3	9	7	2	4
9	4	3	8	7	2	1	6	5
7	2	5	4	6	1	8	3	9

off the mark by Mark Parisi


THAT'S HIM! HE TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME!
MARK PARISI
©2026 Mark Parisi Dist by Andrews McMeel Get a signed print: offthemark.com 1-6

Friends' marketplace

at PLUMB CORNER

SALE EFFECTIVE:
Friday, January 9, to Thursday, January 15, 2026

565 Rounseville Road • Rochester, MA 02770 508.763.5333

Open Daily: 7am–8pm

GROCERY, DAIRY & FROZEN

12 oz. Bag, Whole Bean or Selected Variety
Dunkin' Ground Coffee
$9.99

6-8 oz. Selected Variety Shredded or Bars
Cabot Cheese
2/$7

10 ct. K-Cups, Hot Cocoa or Selected Variety
Dunkin' Coffee **$8.99**

8.9-12 oz. Frosted Flakes or
Kellogg's Froot Loops Cereal **$4.99**

15.4-16.1 oz. Selected Variety
Kellogg's Raisin Bran Cereal **$3.99**

8.5-8.8 oz. Selected Variety
Ben's Original Ready Rice **$2.79**

5 oz. In Water
Starkist Solid White Tuna **2/$4**

25.3 oz.
Fillipo Bario Olive Oil **$11.99**

25.3 oz.
Fillipo Bario Extra Virgin Olive Oil **$13.99**

16 oz. Selected Variety
Teddie Peanut Butter **$3.99**

5.5 oz. Selected Variety
Food Should Taste Good Chips **$2.99**

7.4-8.98 oz. Selected Variety
Nature Valley Granola Bars **$3.49**

BAKERY

4 ct. Pkg.
Store Baked Cupcakes **$5.49**

Loaf
Store Baked Garlic Bread **$3.49**

CHEF PREPARED

Selected Variety, With Blue Cheese Dressing
Gameday Wings! **$10.99 lb**

Pint, With Apples & Butternut Squash
Farro Salad **$10.99**

Fresh
Garden Side Salad **$6.99 ea**

Various Styles
Take & Bake Pizza **$8.99 ea - $10.99 ea**

Homemade Savory Pies to Go!

	Small	Large
Chicken Pot Pie	$13.99 ea	$19.99 ea
Shepherd's Pie	$12.99 ea	$19.99 ea

WINE

Buy any three bottles of wine & receive 10% off!

*Excludes 3/$25, Wines ending in .98 and previously reduced wines.

MEAT, DELI, PREPARED FOODS & CHEESE

Fresh, Boneless
Bell & Evans Chicken Thighs
$4.99 lb

Fresh, Boneless
Center-Cut Pork Chops
$4.99 lb

Deli Sliced
Boar's Head Maple Honey Ham
$10.99 lb

Deli Fresh
Friends' Store Packaged Egg Salad **$10.99 lb**

Deli Fresh
Friends' Store Packaged Asian Noodle Salad **$6.99 lb**

2.29 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety
Boar's Head Fully Cooked Bacon **$5.99**

6.5 oz. Pkg.
Boar's Head Pepperoni Stick **$4.99**

Ready to Serve
Allen's Rotisserie Chicken **$9.99 ea**

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!

Wishing you a New Year filled with peace, love and good cheer!
Here's to a healthy and happy 2026!

Friends' marketplace at PLUMB CORNER

565 Rounseville Rd.
Rochester, MA 02770
Phone: 508.763.5333

Visit our website!
www.friendsplumbcorner.com

Open Daily: 7am–8pm

We reserve the right to limit quantities & correct typographical errors. Illustrations are for design purposes only. Items are while supplies last and no rain checks. Due to current market conditions, item retails may change, and products may become unavailable unexpectedly.

SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, January 9, to Thursday, January 15, 2026

BLOCKBUSTER SAVINGS!

Certified Black Angus
Friends' Premium Spoon Roast
$11.99 lb

7.25 oz. Original
Kraft Mac & Cheese
98¢

Block BUSTER

Liter Bottle, Selected Variety
Poland Spring Sparkling Water
$1.19 +Dep

10 oz. Pkg.
Selected Variety
Ithaca Hummus
$3.98

Block BUSTER

16 oz. Selected Variety
Blue Diamond Almonds
$8.99

16 oz. Selected Variety
Talenti Gelato or Sorbetto
$4.99

QUALITY PRODUCE

Block BUSTER

3 lb. Pkg. New York McIntosh Apples	$1.48
1 lb. Pkg. Florida Strawberries	$3.99
1 lb. Pkg. Blueberries	$3.99
Fresh Zucchini Squash	$1.49 lb
Fresh Summer Squash	$1.49 lb
Fresh Green Bell Peppers	$2.49 lb

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!